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Japan

Food Self-Sufficiency Rate Said To Fall to 46%

OW2512123392 Tokyo KYODO in English 1049 GMT 25 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 25 KYODO—Japan's food supply rate for maintaining self-sufficiency fell 1 percentage point in fiscal 1991 from the previous year to a record low of 46 percent, the government said Friday.

The Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries Ministry said in a report the reduction in the calorie-based self-sufficiency rate stemmed from a continued expansion in imports of farm produce and a decline in wheat and barley stocks, due to typhoons and long spells of rain throughout the year.

The overall self-sufficiency rate for food and feed grains fell 1 percentage point to 29 percent, dropping below the 30 percent level for the first time.

Japan's food self-sufficiency rate was the lowest among industrial nations of the world.

Ministry officials said Japan will cite the low rate in seeking an exemption from the proposed replacement of nontariff barriers with tariffs at the Uruguay Round of global trade talks.

The proposal is expected to force Japan to eventually open its rice market.

The self-sufficiency rate for rice remained unchanged at 100 percent, while that for wheat fell 3 percentage points to 12 percent, due to the year's abnormal weather.

Figures for vegetables, fruits, milk, and dairy products also declined.

The self-sufficiency rate for sugar increased to 36 percent from 33 percent the previous year, while that for beef edged up to 52 percent from 51 percent.

The ministry said beef imports in the year declined, due to a 70 percent tariff imposed after import liberalization in 1991.

Per capita rice supply for the year fell 0.1 kilogram to 69.9 kilograms. Per capita figures for vegetables and fruits decreased 1.9 percent and 6.7 percent, respectively.

U.S. Rice No 'Threat' To Japanese Farmers

OW2512081992 Tokyo KYODO in English 0736 GMT 25 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 25 KYODO—The U.S. version of "Koshihikari" rice made its debut at supermarkets in Los Angeles and other cities across the United States in October, causing repercussions among Japanese trade and farm officials.

The Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) said tests conducted by experts at the request of its Los Angeles center showed that the U.S. product was "very close" to Japan's Koshihikari brand, which is popular in Japan.

JETRO officials ruled out the possibility that the American brand will pose a threat to Japanese farmers even if Japan's rice market is opened to imports under the ongoing Uruguay Round of multinational trade talks.

The officials said the U.S. version of Koshihikari was produced by a farmer in Arkansas, the home of President-elect Bill Clinton, and major granary which produces 40 percent of the U.S. rice output totaling seven million tons a year.

A total of 450 tons of the rice was put on sale at about 18 dollars for 20 pounds, less than half the cost of Japanese "Koshihikari" but nearly double that of California rice, which is generally higher than rice produced in other parts of the United States, the officials said.

Ironically, the introduction of the U.S.-made Koshihikari brand helped boost the image of its Japanese version among rice growers of Japanese descent in the United States, the officials said.

Firm Rejects U.S. Dumping Charge on Tools

OW3012051292 Tokyo KYODO in English 0424 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 30 KYODO—A Japanese company reacted defiantly Wednesday to a preliminary U.S. Government ruling that three Japanese companies have been "dumping" or selling electric cutting tools on the American market at unfairly low prices.

In a statement, Makita Corp. said, "We and our U.S. unit Makita U.S.A. Inc. will keep asserting our fairness until a final ruling."

The U.S. Commerce Department announced Tuesday a preliminary ruling that the Japanese companies are selling professional electric cutting tools and electric sanding and grinding tools in the United States at prices below their value.

The department and the International Trade Commission are expected to investigate the issue further and a final ruling will be made by March 12.

Along with Makita, Hitachi Koki Co. and Ryobi Ltd. have been accused of dumping the tools.

British Car Firm Breaks Into Tokyo Market

OW3012121692 Tokyo KYODO in English 1131 GMT 30 Dec 92

["News Focus"]

[Text] Ellesmere Port, England, Dec. 30 KYODO—Vauxhall Motors, once the problem child of the British automobile industry, is celebrating a significant breakthrough—its first sales to Japan.

For Vauxhall, owned by America's General Motors, it is an important morale booster at a time when it is battling to hold onto and enlarge its share of the British market against the incursions of Japan's big three, Toyota, Nissan and Honda.

Company executives recently returned from Tokyo after reportedly finalizing a multimillion pound deal with Japanese dealers for trial shipments of hundreds of cars to what British newspapers call the world's toughest market for the British motor industry.

The order comes at a time when the confidence of British carmakers is at a low ebb after three years of recession, and the growing output of Japanese car factories in Britain.

Ford Motor Co., the market leader, has been cutting back production and cutting thousands of jobs amid gloomy predictions for the future.

Vauxhall, which has never previously sold any cars in Japan in its 89-year history, is thriving and has proved it is still possible for Britain to compete in the world car market.

The company was unwilling to reveal details of the deal, and it is not clear how General Motors will split up the order between its various European factories.

In Britain, Vauxhall has two major manufacturing centers—Luton, just north of London, and Ellesmere Port, on the banks of the River Mersey opposite Liverpool.

Luton builds the Cavalier, Britain's best-selling company car, but it is the Ellesmere Port plant which is attracting the most attention. It builds the Astra, a small car which will have to compete against some of Japan's most popular domestic models, such as the Toyota Corolla, Nissan Sunny and Honda Civic.

Kevin Eason, automotive correspondent of the London TIMES, said it was understood that Ellesmere Port was a leading contender for a major share of the order, which was highly significant because Japanese buyers have long shunned mid-priced European cars, believing their domestically made cars are better built and more reliable.

This has confined European sales to high-priced models, including Jaguars and Mercedes. Only Rover's Mini has sold in large numbers on the low end of the price scale, but as a cult car among young buyers.

Japanese perceptions of Britain have changed drastically since Nissan, Toyota and Honda invested some 2 billion pounds in their own car manufacturing plants and discovered that British workers were capable of producing cars as good as those made in Japan.

Nissan's factory in northeast England now claims higher productivity than its plants in Japan, and has begun supplying cars to its home market.

GM executives privately are expressing confidence that the Astras built at Ellesmere Port can meet the reliability targets necessary to convince Japanese buyers of their quality.

This is a major turnaround for the factory, which at one time was notorious for poor labor relations bordering on all-out warfare, with production hobbled by frequent wildcat strikes and union disputes.

Faced with the Japanese challenge, however, the work force has gotten over its problems. Strikes are now almost nonexistent and productivity has soared.

GM was so impressed with the performance that it decided to build a new engine plant in Ellesmere Port, rather than in Germany, where it had been expected to be built.

Bill Ebbert, Vauxhall's chairman and managing director, said at the end of December that the company had increased productivity by 8 percent in 1992 while it trimmed its work force to 10,871 from 11,248, despite opening the new engine plant.

Auto production at Ellesmere Port and Luton reached a record 302,047 this year, an increase of 15.3 percent on the year before.

In a declining market, the company also managed to increase its share of new car registrations to a record 16.8 percent from 15.6 per cent. It also exported a record 37 percent of its output, contributing some 648 million pounds to the balance of payments.

Support Vessel Returns From Cambodia

OW2512125992 Tokyo KYODO in English 1142 GMT 25 Dec 92

[Text] Kure, Hiroshima Pref., Dec. 25 KYODO—The Japanese fleet support vessel Towada returned to its home port of Kure in Hiroshima Prefecture Friday after completing a three-month mission to Cambodia as part of Japan's peacekeeping efforts in the war-torn country.

Some 400 family members of the vessel's crew and Maritime Self-Defense Force (MSDF) officials attended a welcome ceremony at the MSDF base in Kure.

The 8,100-ton Towada left Kure in September carrying 34 MSDF members and a number of motor vehicles. The support ship ferried water and food from Singapore to Cambodia before heading back to Japan on December 14.

Yoshitaka Dote, captain of the vessel, told reporters that people in Cambodia were friendly and Japanese peacekeepers from the Ground Self-Defense Force were performing well in their jobs.

Dote also said much larger support ships would be needed in the future for Japan's overseas peacekeeping operations.

Two transport ships—the 2,000-ton Miura and the 2,000-ton Ojika—are scheduled to return to the MSDF base at Yokosuka in Kanagawa Prefecture on Saturday.

Deputy Foreign Minister on Peres Visit

TA2812191292 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 28 Dec 92 p 2

[Report by Hemi Shalev]

[Text] Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres' visit to Japan has opened a new chapter in relations between the two countries, which constitutes a departure from Tokyo's formerly "one-sided and pro-Arab" policy. This was what Japanese Deputy Foreign Minister Hisashi Owada told the Israeli ambassador in Tokyo.

The Japanese official wanted to know how the visit was assessed in Israel, and said that Tokyo considered it an excellent trip. He added that Peres' hosts were very impressed with the foreign minister's personality and analyses.

Deputy Minister Owada said that Japan was changing its policy, which used to be one-sided. He pointed out that he himself devoted much time and thought to the issue, and that he was not acting "solely out of political considerations."

Owada's warm remarks were gladly received in Jerusalem in light of the fact that he is a career foreign service officer in charge of relations with Middle East countries. In Japan, the government's day-to-day policy is determined by senior ministry officials, while the respective cabinet ministers have little influence.

Indonesian Minister on Technological Ties

BK2612092092 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0000 GMT 26 Dec 92

[Text] Relations between Indonesia and Japan in several areas, including technology, are making great progress and are mutually beneficial. Minister for Research and Technology B.J. Habibie said this to reporters after he held talks with Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa in Tokyo, adding that bilateral relations in the technological field are increasing steadily as seen from the establishment of the BPIS [Agency for Strategic Industries Management], of which Japan is one of the partners.

Habibie said the BPIS consists of 10 industrial groups, including the State Aircrafts Industries, Shipbuilding Industries, Krakatau Steel Corporation, and Army Industries Corporation. The BPIS is a purely business oriented organization and serves no military purposes.

Habibie is in Japan to attend a meeting of the Japan-Indonesia Scientific and Technological Forum, established by President Suharto and former Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone in 1980. The forum was established to promote technological cooperation between the two countries.

Tokyo Investors Poised To Return to SRV

OW3012125492 Tokyo KYODO in English 1119 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 30 KYODO—Japanese investors look set to return to Vietnam en masse next year as Tokyo's resumption of aid to the communist country in November set the stage for an investment boom, according to Japanese trade experts.

They said the expected resumption of trade insurance for Japanese firms doing business with Vietnamese firms next year and the U.S. decision earlier this month to ease economic sanctions against Hanoi are also encouraging.

"The outlook (for investment in Vietnam) is becoming increasingly bright," said an official at the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO).

Vietnam has granted licenses to 28 Japanese investment projects up to early November since it introduced a new foreign investment law in 1988, making Japan the fourth largest foreign investor there, according to Vietnamese statistics.

But trade officials said the cumulative value of Japanese investment doubled from three months ago and the scale of Japanese investment would have been much larger if some already signed large-scale oil projects are counted.

"It's certain that Japan will replace Hong Kong as the second largest foreign investor in Vietnam next year, and come close to Taiwan as the biggest foreign investor there," the JETRO official said.

It is not only major companies but also small and medium-size companies that will look to Vietnam, as low labor costs and high growth potential there make that country a "new world" for Japanese small business owners confronted with higher labor costs and recession at home, trade officials said.

According to the Japan-Vietnam Trade Association, inquiries from small- and medium-size Japanese companies, particularly those in the consumer electronics and lumber processing industries, about investment in Vietnam have been rising sharply.

"There are fears (among small and medium-size companies) they may miss business opportunities because of investment by major companies," said Hiroshi Miyauchi, managing director of the association.

The association plans to send a trade and investment mission jointly with another trade group in Osaka to Vietnam next February to help promote Japanese investment projects there.

Apart from the mission, the powerful Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren) is also to dispatch an economic mission to Vietnam next February.

Trade officials said many problems in promoting Japanese investment in Vietnam remain unsolved, citing poor foreign investment-related laws and social and economic infrastructures such as roads and electric power supply.

But with the Vietnamese Government making efforts to resolve these problems, it is certain that bilateral economic relations will develop steadily, they said.

Firm Establishes Joint Venture in Vietnam

OW2712043292 Tokyo KYODO in English 0324 GMT 27 Dec 92

[Text] Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, Dec. 27 KYODO—Japanese and Vietnamese confectionery makers have set up a joint venture that will start production this Friday, industry sources said Sunday.

The joint venture, called Vinabico Kotobuki, was established by Confectionery Kotobuki Ltd. of western Japan, and Vietnam's state-run Vinabico in Ho Chi Minh City.

Kotobuki will shoulder 60 percent of the overall investment of 3.74 million dollars and Vinabico the remainder.

The joint venture, planned to last for 25 years, foresees 2.5 million to 3.0 million dollars worth of sales of cookies and candy in 1993 and plans to begin exporting in 1994, the sources said.

Confectionery Kotobuki is also launching a project with Haiha, a state-run confectionery maker in Hanoi. Joint production concentrating on candy is expected to start next April. The project will cost 4.05 million dollars, the sources said.

Burmese Nationals Ask Tokyo for Refugee Status

OW2412123392 Tokyo KYODO in English 1201 GMT 24 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 24 KYODO—Twelve Myanmar [Burma] nationals pleaded with the Tokyo Immigration Bureau Thursday for refugee status to escape alleged political persecution in their country.

Although two other Myanmarese also wanted to take refuge in Japan, they could not apply because of their failure to prepare the necessary materials to submit to the immigration bureau.

All of the 14 are men and members of the Burmese Association in Japan who came to Japan with short-term visas in the past year or two and make their living through part-time jobs, their attorneys said.

The leader of the association, Win Naing, 33, and two others obtained refugee status in March.

Concerned about possible forced repatriation by the Japanese Government, the Myanmarese applied to the Japan Federation of Bar Associations in September for help to protect their human rights.

In Myanmar, antigovernment activists, pro-democracy students, and citizens have been persecuted since the 1988 military coup. Opposition leader and Nobel Peace Prize winner Aung San Suu Kyi, whose party overwhelmingly won elections in 1990 but was not handed power, has been under house arrest since July 1989.

Several thousand Myanmarese are believed to have come to Japan to seek refuge.

A 27-year-old applicant who joined the antigovernment movement after graduating from university said, "it was extremely difficult to get out of the country."

Djibouti Seeks Help in Handling Refugee Problem

OW2412135392 Tokyo KYODO in English 1317 GMT 24 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 24 KYODO—Djibouti's ambassador to Japan is calling on the Japanese Government and private sector to supply more assistance to solve the African state's refugee problems.

Richard Farah said there are about 100,000 to 125,000 refugees in Djibouti, of which 70 to 80 percent come from Somalia and the remainder from Ethiopia.

He said at a recent news conference that Japan is extending 1 billion yen a year to Djibouti, but the money is not targeted at solving the refugee problem.

Farah said Djibouti has had problems with refugees since its independence in 1977 and will continue asking Japan for more medicine and necessary equipment to help them.

ASEAN Visit Begins Miyazawa's 1993 Schedule

OW3012045192 Tokyo KYODO in English 0430 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 30 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa's international schedule for 1993 still bears many question marks, except for an already scheduled visit to four southeast Asian nations in January, government sources said Wednesday.

Topping the priority list and tentatively scheduled are a visit to South Korea on the occasion of the inauguration of President-elect Kim Young-sam in late February and a trip to the United States in mid- or late-March after President-elect Bill Clinton has assumed office, the sources said.

As for the first six months of the year, Miyazawa will make a trip—probably a short day-trip—to South Korea to offer his congratulations to the new president—provided the Diet session goes smoothly.

As outgoing President No Tae-u urged an early visit by the prime minister for summit talks when visiting Tokyo in November, the date will probably be set at short notice to realize the visit.

The sources said Miyazawa aims at an early visit to Washington to build personal ties with the new president, but that with lingering trade disputes and fears that Clinton might take a harder stance toward Japan, a visit cannot wait until May.

Miyazawa is therefore expected to make his visit during an interval in Diet deliberations. If time allows, he will extend his trip to Canada in response to a previous invitation, they said.

Miyazawa also intends to pay a visit to several European countries from late April through early May, in preparation for the Tokyo economic summit of the world's seven major economic powers slated for July 7-9, the sources said.

The European tour prior to the Tokyo summit will cover Britain, France and Italy, while Germany is likely to be skipped as Chancellor Helmut Kohl is expected to visit Tokyo at the end of February.

But domestic and international imponderables hamper officials' attempts to fix exact dates and fill the prime minister's international diary.

In the aftermath of the Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin money-and-mobster scandal, the upcoming regular Diet session to start in late January is not expected to resort to business as usual.

Diet impasses could prompt Miyazawa to dissolve the House of Representatives for a snap general election, political sources said.

If Miyazawa is not able to restore the Liberal Democratic Party's credibility and improve public support for his government, which plunged to a mere 20 percent in recent mass media polls, he may not be able to retain the party presidency and with it the prime ministership after his two-year term of office as LDP president expires at the end of September, the political sources said.

If Russian President Boris Yeltsin is able to realize a visit to Japan at an early date, it will be followed by a Moscow visit by the prime minister to speed up a solution to the territorial dispute over four Russian-held islands north of Hokkaido claimed by Japan.

Government sources said that as a Yeltsin visit seems rather improbable due to the unpredictable domestic situation in Russia, voices will grow louder within the government urging Miyazawa to visit Central and South America and the Middle East, areas which have not seen a visit by a Japanese prime minister for years.

Parliamentary Vice Foreign Minister Retained

OW2612085492 Tokyo KYODO in English 0846 GMT 26 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 26 KYODO—The government decided at a cabinet meeting Saturday to retain Koji Kakizawa as parliamentary vice foreign minister, reflecting Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe's strong hope, officials said.

The selection of parliamentary vice ministers and directors general at government ministries and agencies usually takes place shortly after a new cabinet is named or a cabinet undergoes a reshuffle.

This time, however, the government delayed appointing the new No. 2 officials in government ministries and agencies until Saturday to avoid possible confusion in the drafting of the fiscal 1993 national budget, although Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa shook up the cabinet December 11.

The cabinet Saturday also approved an austere budget for fiscal 1993, which starts April 1, calling for marked increases in public works spending and assistance to developing countries despite falling tax revenues.

A one-time member of the House of Councillors and four-time member of the more powerful House of Representatives, Kakizawa stands out among the new parliamentary vice ministers and directors general, most of whom have been elected to the Diet only two or three times.

The 59-year-old Kakizawa belongs to the third-largest faction in the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, which Watanabe founded. He visited 18 countries on 11 occasions since he assumed the post in November 1991.

Mitsuzuka Proposes Body for Constitutional Study

OW2512152492 Tokyo KYODO in English 1508 GMT 25 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 25 KYODO—The policy chief of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] revealed Friday a plan to set up an interparty council in the Diet to discuss constitutional issues.

In a meeting with reporters, Hiroshi Mitsuzuka, chairman of the LDP Policy Affairs Research Council, said the body would study the Constitution from its preamble to the last article and deepen understanding of its problems possible areas for revisions.

He stopped short of detailing the plan further.

Mitsuzuka said he hopes to "carefully review the Constitution as a whole" and talk over in depth articles over which the ruling and opposition parties are divided, through the new council comprising representatives of the various parties.

As for the Constitution's Article 9 that bans the use of force in settling international disputes, Mitsuzuka indicated he will move to add an exceptions clause to open the way for participation of the Self-Defense Forces personnel in U.N.-authorized multinational forces.

"The ruling and opposition parties, as a matter of course, stand in opposition on the article, but we need to talk it over, over, and over again," he said.

Junior SDP Members Demand Leader Election

OW2612140092 Tokyo KYODO in English 1330 GMT 26 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 26 KYODO—Young Turks in Japan's No. 1 opposition Social Democratic Party (SDP) have launched a campaign opposing backroom intraparty maneuverings to pick a successor to outgoing leader Makoto Tanabe, party sources said Saturday.

A group of the SDP's junior Diet members has begun a signature collecting campaign to press their demand for an election to choose the new leader.

The group will present its demand with the signatures to the party leadership Monday when the party will declare the start of the leadership election in the party newspaper SHAKAI SHIMPO.

The campaign follows moves by party seniors and faction leaders to select Sadao Yamahana as Tanabe's successor, the sources said. Yamahana, 56, has been the party's secretary general under Tanabe since July 1991.

Osamu Shibuya, leader of the group, demanded a revision of the party's election regulations, under which only party members with membership of five years or longer are eligible to run for the chairmanship, the sources said.

The demand would pave the way for Hokkaido Gov. Takahiro Yokomichi or United Social Democratic Party leader Satsuki Eda to run in the election, the sources said.

Neither Yokomichi or Eda are members of the party. Yokomichi was once an SDP Diet member but has been out of the party since he ran in gubernatorial elections as an independent.

Tanabe announced Thursday he is resigning as chairman of the SDP's leadership body, the Central Executive Committee, noting the need for a generational change.

Tanabe, 70, has been under criticism inside and outside the party because of his close ties with Shin Kanemaru, former kingmaker of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, who resigned from the Diet in October amid a money-and-mobster scandal.

On Friday, the SDP announced the schedule for the election of a new party head, starting off with the announcement of elections in the Monday edition of the party newspaper.

Candidacies will be accepted January 6, officials said.

An estimated 150,000 rank-and-file party members are eligible to cast ballots January 15 and 16, and vote counting is planned for the following day.

The SDP will hold an extraordinary convention January 19 to confirm the new leadership.

SDPJ Announces Election for Party Chairman

OW2912015292 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0300 GMT 28 Dec 92

[Text] In connection with Makoto Tanabe's resignation as chairman of the Social Democratic Party of Japan [SDPJ], the SDPJ officially announced an election to choose the next party chairman. During an NHK interview, SDPJ General Secretary Sadao Yamahana indicated his intention to run for the post.

The SDPJ made the official announcement of the election in today's edition of the SHAKAI SHIMPO, the party's organ. A signboard was erected at the party's headquarters describing the place as election headquarters.

The party will begin accepting applications from candidates on 6 January. If there are more than two candidates, an election will be held on 15 and 16 January, when official party members and party-supporting associate members throughout the nation will vote for their choice. On 19 January, an extraordinary party convention will be held to decide on the new party chairman.

The election headquarters is coordinating with various prefectural party headquarters to confirm the number of eligible voters among the official party members and party supporters, which total approximately 150,000. The number of qualified voters is expected to reach about 130,000.

Under such circumstances, the rightist Study Group on Political Power Concept, the largest party faction, held a general meeting at 1100 today to discuss the group's approach toward the election for party chairman. A meeting is also scheduled for the group's junior members later in the afternoon.

While it is expected that there will be a growing move toward naming only one candidate, General Secretary Yamahana, there are also voices urging that the new party chairman should be chosen through an election. Therefore, some members view that more time may be required for candidates to decide on running in the election, and that their decision may be dragged out until immediately before the party begins accepting applications for candidacies after the New Year holidays.

During the NHK program that was recorded today, "New Year Interviews With Opposition Party Leaders," General Secretary Yamahana indicated his intention to run for party chairman, saying: I would like to participate in creating a new structure aimed at promoting drastic reforms within the party.

During the interview, General Secretary Yamanaha said: Chairman Tanabe resigned after confirming the success of the party's Central Committee meeting held for solidifying the party's stance toward the next Diet's general elections. We should take advantage of his decision to overhaul the party's outdated structure and create a party appropriate for the new era. I would like to have a part in the creation of a new structure. He thereby indicated his intention to run for party chairman.

Yamahana Intends To Run for SDP Leadership

OW2812062492 Tokyo KYODO in English 0538 GMT 28 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 28 KYODO—Social Democratic Party (SDP) Secretary General Sadao Yamahana indicated Monday he will run for the party chairmanship vacated by the resignation of Makoto Tanabe.

The SDP, Japan's largest opposition party, officially announced the same day that the election for the chairmanship will be held next month.

"(We) must build a political party suitable for a new era. The party needs to promote sweeping self-reform efforts. I hope to play a role in building the new party," Yamahana said in an interview with Japan Broadcasting Corp. (NHK) to be aired in the new year.

Yamahana, 56, the SDP's No. 2 man as secretary general since July 1991, is emerging as the most likely successor to Tanabe, who abruptly announced last week he is stepping down as chairman of the SDP's leadership body, the central executive committee, party sources said.

Senior party and faction leaders have been maneuvering to pick Yamahana as the sole candidate in the leadership election, the sources said.

Yamahana is considered to be on the left wing of the party, compared with Tanabe, who is known to be on the party's right wing.

In announcing the resignation at a press conference Thursday [24 December], Tanabe, 70, said he hoped his resignation will help boost the party's chances in the next general election expected sometime in 1993, saying there was a need for a generational change in the SDP leadership.

Behind Tanabe's resignation, however, was fierce criticism within party ranks and from the public of his close ties with disgraced ruling party kingpin Shin Kanemaru, political sources said.

Many party members, particularly younger ones, were critical of Tanabe's handling of the Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin money-and-mobster scandal that involved Kanemaru and former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita.

The SDP formally declared the election in the Monday edition of its newspaper SHAKAI SHIMPO.

Candidacies will be accepted on January 6.

If there is only one candidate, he or she will automatically become leader without a vote being taken.

An estimated 130,000 full and associate party members across the nation will cast ballots on January 15 and 16 if there are two or more candidates. Vote counting is planned for the following day.

The SDP will hold an extraordinary party convention on January 19 to confirm the new leader.

NJP Head Cautious About Forming Alliances

OW2712104292 Tokyo KYODO in English 1014 GMT 27 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 27 KYODO—Morihiro Hosokawa, head of the New Japan Party [JNP], is cautious about allying with other political forces, including the newly formed Hata faction of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, according to a recorded interview.

In a taped new year's interview by Japan broadcasting corporation (NHK), Hosokawa said Sunday that he predicts the general election for the House of Representatives will take place just before or just after the Group of Seven (G-7) summit meeting in Tokyo in early July.

Hosokawa added he thinks the situations favorable for a political realignment could arise before the election. [sentence as received]

However, he ruled out the possibility of allying with the LDP's Hata faction, which was inaugurated in mid-December with 44 legislators who deserted the LDP's largest faction formed by former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita.

The splinter group, the fifth largest in the LDP, calls for a reorganization of the political world across partisan lines.

Hosokawa also remained cautious about allying with other new political forums such as "Sirius" headed by Satsuki Eda, leader of the minor opposition united Social Democratic Party, and "reform of Heisei" led by Kenichi Ohmae, chairman of the management consultant McKinsey and Co.'s Japanese operation.

The New Japan Party has only four seats in the House of Councillors but its public support is second among opposition parties following the largest opposition group, the Social Democratic Party, according to recent newspaper polls.

Opposition Leaders View New Year Outlook

OW2812053992 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1000 GMT 27 Dec 92

[From "NHK News" program]

[Text] In interviews with NHK recorded today for the program "New Year Interviews with Opposition Parties," representatives of the New Japan Party, the Rengo-Sangiin and the Niin Club each gave their views on political reorganization and political reform.

Regarding the outlook for political reorganization, Mr. Hosokawa, the New Japan Party's representative, said he thought conditions for reorganization would become ripe before the House of Representatives election expected shortly before or after the Tokyo summit in July 1993.

He said that newly-formed groups came from different areas, but their aims—for instance, the quest to defend the rights of people, and the decentralization of power to local governments—were similar in many ways. He added that his party would cooperate with other groups, starting with what could be achieved together. He gave as an example the introduction of a Freedom of Information Act as an issue on which the groups could work together.

Mr. Hosokawa indicated his willingness to tackle political reorganization, beginning with talks on individual policy matters with other groups.

In the same interview program, Mr. Hoshikawa, representative of the Rengo-Sangiin, said that in order to effect a major change in the political world, his group would free itself of past ties with the Social Democratic Party of Japan and the Democratic Socialist Party. He said his group would seek ties with a wider range of groups, inclusing Sirius, the New Japan Party and the Hata faction of the Liberal Democratic Party [LDP].

Mr. Kian, representative of the Niin Club, meanwhile, insisted that long, drawn out, one-party rule by the LDP was the cause of political corruption. He stressed that political reform needed to be carried out, and a foundation on which to change the government must be laid—without delay.

The program, "New Year Interviews with Political Parties," will be broadcast over the general television and satellite television networks, as well as the radio broadcasting network, on two days starting on 2 January.

JCP Expels Former Honorary Chairman

OW2812075092 Tokyo KYODO in English 0650 GMT 28 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 28 KYODO—The Japanese Communist Party (JCP) announced Monday that it has expelled Sanzo Nosaka, its former honorary chairman and co-founder of the party, for the prewar betrayal of a colleague.

The party made the decision at a meeting of the Central Committee on Sunday, the party organ AKAHATA reported.

The JCP removed Nosaka, 100, from the position of honorary chairman in September but he retained his party membership. The decision came on the heels of magazine articles saying he betrayed his fellow party leader before World War II.

The JCP sent a fact-finding mission to investigate the case in Russia and the members returned last Thursday, AKAHATA said.

JCP officials concluded that Nosaka's prewar actions ran counter to the interests of the party and the people.

Nosaka told the party he had no choice but to accept the decision because the allegation was true.

The party said that in 1939 when Nosaka was in exile in the United States he wrote a letter to the then-leader of Communist International, a defunct international organization of communist party members, accusing Kenzo Yamamoto, another JCP leader, of spying for the Japanese Government.

Yamamoto was executed by Joseph Stalin's firing squads in 1939.

Nosaka joined the party in 1922 when it was founded. He entered the former Soviet Union illegally in 1931 and worked with Communist International in Moscow until 1940.

He left Moscow with Zhou Enlai in 1940 to enter Yanan, then the stronghold of Chinese Communists, and to organize Japanese prisoners of war.

Nosaka returned to Japan in 1946. He had been elected to the House of Councillors four times since 1956. He assumed the JCP chairmanship at the Seventh Party Congress in 1958 and retained the post until 1982, becoming a symbolic figure of the party.

JCP Presidium Chairman Tetsuzo Fuwa on Monday described the ouster of Nosaka as "natural" regardless of what party post he occupied in the past.

"Nosaka repeated deeds which are not permissible from the standpoint of human morals," Fuwa said in an interview with Japan Broadcasting Corp. (NHK) to be aired in the new year.

Fuwa said the party bears a responsibility to the Japanese people to make its position clear with regard to Nosaka's deeds.

More Reportage on FY93 National Budget

MOF on UNHCR, Environment Outlays

OW2412104092 Tokyo KYODO in English 1009 GMT 24 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 24 KYODO—The Finance Ministry [MOF] has endorsed a request from the Foreign Ministry to add 610 million yen to an outlay to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in the fiscal 1993 budget, ministry officials said Thursday.

The ministry earlier proposed to the government of Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa that Japan set aside 9.5 billion yen to help finance the UNHCR's refugee relief work.

The accord came in a meeting between the deputy director of the Finance Ministry's Budget Bureau and the Foreign Ministry's Vice Minister Hisashi Owada.

The ministry also approved another Foreign Ministry request to add 280 million yen to a budgeted outlay to help fund a UN—operated program to clean up the global environment, the officials said.

The cabinet is to approve the next fiscal year budget on Saturday.

'Main Points' of Budget Reported

OW2612064692 Tokyo KYODO in English 0626 GMT 26 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 26 KYODO—The following are the main points of the fiscal 1993 budget approved at a cabinet meeting Saturday.

—The budget sets aside 72,354.8 billion yen for the general account, up 0.2 percent from the initial fiscal 1992 budget, the smallest growth since fiscal 1987. General operating expenditures will rise 3.1 percent to 39,916.8 billion yen.

—Public works spending will be boosted by 4.8 percent to 8,565.4 billion yen in a bid to rev up the economy.

—Defense spending will rise only 1.95 percent to 4,640.6 billion yen.

—The government will issue 8,130 billion yen worth of construction bonds to finance public works projects because tax revenues are expected to fall 1.9 percent to 61,303 billion yen. The bonds will account for 11.2 percent of the total revenue for fiscal 1993, up from 10.1 percent in the initial fiscal 1992 budget.

—Official Development Assistance (ODA) will rise by 6.5 percent to 1,014.4 billion yen.

—Tax grants to local governments will be reduced by 1 percent to 15,617.4 billion yen.

Outline of Expenses, Revenues

OW2612065192 Tokyo KYODO in English 0628 GMT 26 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 26 KYODO—The following is a brief outline of the fiscal 1993 budget approved by the government Saturday.

Figures are in billions of yen, with year-on-year percentage change from the initial fiscal 1992 budget in parentheses.

Category	Billions of Yen	Percentage Change From Initial Budget
General Account (revenue)	72,354.8	(0.2)
Tax and Stamp Receipts	61,303.0	(-1.9)
Nontax Revenue	2,735.2	(23.4)
National Bonds	8,130.0	(11.7)
Revenues from NTT Stock Sales	186.6	(-13.9)
General Expenditure	39,916.8	(3.1)
Defense	4,640.6	(1.95)
Official Development Assistance	1,014.4	(6.5)
Public Works Spending	8,565.4	(4.8)
National Debt Expenditure	15,442.3	(-6.1)
Local Tax Allocation	15,617.4	(-1.0)
Others	1,378.3	(—)
Fiscal Investment and Loan Program	45,770.6	(12.2)
General Outlays	36,595.6	(13.4)

Military Budget Increase Viewed

OW2612104992 Tokyo KYODO in English 1037 GMT 26 Dec 92

[By Tadashi Matsumoto]

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 26 KYODO—The cold war ended. The Soviet Union collapsed. The United States and other countries have been cutting back on defense spending. But Japan's military budget continues to rise.

Japan's defense expenditure has steadily risen for more than 35 consecutive years, regardless of international political and defense situations, and continues to do so in fiscal 1993.

The cabinet of Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa on Saturday endorsed a defense budget of 4,640.6 billion yen for the fiscal year beginning next April, up 1.95 percent from fiscal 1992's initial budget.

In addition, outlays for frontline defense weaponry, including tanks and jet fighters, will rise 1.7 percent to 880 billion yen.

Miyazawa described the growth rate as "reasonable."

Opposition parties and defense experts, however, accused the government of increasing defense budgets without giving the dividends of peace to the Japanese people.

Masaru Hayakawa, a senior member of Japan's largest opposition Social Democratic Party, said the introduction of Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS) planes—sophisticated U.S.-made command aircraft—does not reflect the changed international situation.

Tetsuo Maeda, a prominent defense expert, said the Defense Agency is using the military expansion in Asian countries as an excuse to boost spending.

Maeda said, "Prime Minister Miyazawa has failed to present a new defense philosophy to the Japanese people in the post-cold war era."

However, senior agency officials said Asia still faces political and military uncertainties, citing North Korea, China, Russia and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

North Korea's efforts to develop long-range missiles that could reach Japan, its suspected nuclear weapons program and Russia's uncertain military goals are among matters of concern to Japan's security, the officials said.

China, meanwhile, recently bought 24 SU-27 fighter jets from Russia and has agreed to purchase over 1 billion dollars worth of missiles and other weapons.

China is also reportedly building up its naval forces to cope with simmering disputes with some of the ASEAN nations and Vietnam over the South China Sea's Spratly Islands, whose surrounding waters are rich in oil deposits.

ASEAN groups Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei, the Philippines and Indonesia, most of which are building up their defense through purchases of high-powered conventional arms on the back of economic development.

The United States pulled its military forces out of the Philippines earlier this year, bringing worries of a power vacuum in the region.

Defense expert Maeda said Japan's fiscal 1993 defense budget illustrates a lack of clear-cut views within the government on how the country needs to readjust its basic defense policies.

The national defense program outline, set by former Prime Minister Takeo Miki in October 1976, was aimed primarily at making Japan capable of repulsing limited and small-scale aggression.

Maeda said Japan should trim its armaments and make its defense policies U.N.-oriented in accordance with the war-renouncing Constitution.

When the agency slashed its 1991-1995 midterm defense program December 18, agency Chief Toshio Nakayama said it may pave the way for reviewing the basic outline and adopting new policies.

Oh Joon Dong, Tokyo bureau chief of South Korea's YONHAP News Agency, said, "I was surprised to see the upsurge of defense spending for the next fiscal year."

Oh said he wonders why Japan has not yet updated its basic military policies.

Business Sentiment 'Worsened' in 4th Quarter

OW2412113292 Tokyo KYODO in English 1058 GMT 24 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 24 KYODO—Business sentiment worsened in the October-December quarter from the previous quarter, according to a Finance Ministry survey released on Thursday.

The quarterly survey, to which 10,266 of 11,979 companies capitalized at 10 million yen or more responded, showed that the Business Survey Index (BSI) for major companies stood at minus 20.8 for the quarter, compared with minus 20.5 in the previous quarter.

The BSI represents the percentage of companies reporting better business conditions minus that of companies reporting otherwise.

The BSI stood at minus 29.1 for medium-size companies and at minus 27.1 for small companies, falling below those in the previous survey conducted in August.

A Finance Ministry official said the latest survey should not be taken as a worse sign given the fact that it was conducted during a rush of corporate earnings reports for the fiscal first half and prior to the Diet's passage of a supplementary budget featuring pump-priming measures.

For the January-March quarter, the BSI fell into the minus column for all types of companies after staying on the plus side for major companies in the previous survey, signaling that many firms now expect a recovery to be delayed into the April-June quarter.

For the April-June quarter, the BSI stood at plus 8.7 for major companies, minus 0.2 for medium-size concerns and minus 4.1 for small firms.

North Korea

Choe U-chin Urges Meeting of JNCC

SK3012051892 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1013 GMT 29 Dec 92

[News conference by Choe U-chin, North side's chairman of the North-South Joint Nuclear Control Committee, with domestic and foreign correspondents at the People's Palace of Culture in Pyongyang on 29 December—recorded]

[Text] Good morning, correspondents from home and abroad: Today I am going to give an outline of the status of JNCC activities. As you know, almost one year has passed since the Joint Declaration on Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula was adopted. During the period, the Joint Nuclear Coanbtrol Committee [JNCC] has sincerely discussed matters of implementation of the joint declaration on denuclearization by holding committee meetings and members' contacts.

By nature, as you know, the joint declaration on denuclearization reflects all the countrymen's aspiration to live on a reunified land as soon as possible by removing nuclear war threats from the Korean peninsula. It also reflects the people's desire a favorable environment for peace and peaceful reunification of the nation. Therefore, to properly implement the basic contents of the joint declaration on denuclearization has emerged to be a valuable mission of the JNCC.

As a result of operating the JNCC with this mission, we made much progress. First, the North and South reached an agreement on the adoption of documents by the JNCC. They agreed to adopt two documents: an agreement on the implementation of the Joint Declaration on Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, and also rules of inspection to verify denuclearization of the Korean peninsula. The North and South agreed to adopt these two documents by bringing them up together for discussion.

Second, we can say there was considerable progress made in preparing inspection regulations. The North and South agreed to the drafting of inspection regulations and to the title of each chapter of the rules.

They agreed to divide the rules of inspection into the following seven chapters: exchange of information for verifying denuclearization; formation and operation of inspection teams; suggestion of targets for inspection; procedures and method of inspection; redressing of evils and resolving of disputes according to inspection results; guarantee of personal safety and accommodation for inspection teams; and modification, validation, and others. They also settled big problems and found similarities in working on the contents of the rules of inspection.

It leaves no room for doubt that if only we had smoothly held JNCC meetings and members' contacts as scheduled, we could have made even further progress by now. Unfortunately, however, the JNCC activities have made little progress in the last two months because on 8 October the South side agreed with the United States to resume the suspended Team Spirit joint military exercise.

The South is trying to justify itself while making awkward excuses for its decision to resume the suspended Team Spirit joint military exercise. The South side cannot, however, justify that decision with any excuse.

Our side signed the nuclear safeguards agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] on 31 January and has received five nonregular inspections since the end of last May after going through ratification procedures by the Supreme People's Assembly in April. Our Republic will not only continue to receive the IAEA's nonregular inspections, but will also receive regular inspections in the future. Under these circumstances, it is plainly unreasonable that the South side decided to resume the suspended Team Spirit joint military exercise. I would like to point out one more thing: In its 7 January National Defense Ministry statement on suspension of the Team Spirit joint military exercise, the South side officially declared that it decided to suspend the Team Spirit joint military exercise to promote detente and North-South dialogue.

Although the South side said that it decided to suspend the Team Spirit joint military exercise in order to promote detente and North-South dialogue, it has conducted the Team Spirit joint military exercises 16 times. In other words, the South side would rather increase tension than promote detente. This also means that while conceding that it pursued confrontation, not North-South dialogue, the South side declared the suspension of the Team Spirit joint military exercise slated for May in order to promote detente and North-South dialogue.

In a joint statement made public after the 24th annual security consultative meeting held in Washington on 7 and 8 October, the South side indicated that if North-South relations, including nuclear inspection in particular, is not solved, it had no choice but to resume the Team Spirit joint military exercise. There has been remarkable progress in North-South relations. Concerning nuclear inspection, the North and the South reached agreements on some issues through the 13 JNCC meetings and 8 delegates' contacts. Although the agreements are unsatisfactory, these meetings and contacts have continued.

When the South side agreed to resume the Team Spirit joint military exercise on 8 October, the North and the South had earnest, working-level discussions on inspection regulations at the JNCC delegates' contact and made some progress. Nevertheless, the South side and the United States indicated in the agreed joint statement that if there is no progress in North-South relations, mutual nuclear inspection in particular, and other issues, they would have no choice but to prepare and promote the 1993 Team Spirit joint military exercise. This agreement is very improper and unjust.

As the whole world already recognized officially, the Team Spirit joint military exercise is a nuclear war exercise. This nuclear war exercise mobilizes as many as 200,000 armed forces, which are enough for a war.

Therefore, the Team Spirit joint military exercise can be described as an exercise designed to attack fellow countrymen who are also the partner in dialogue.

This clearly shows that the Team Spirit joint military exercise violates and flagrantly infringes upon the North-South basic agreement and the joint denuclearization declaration, documents for which the North and the South have already reached an agreement.

Nevertheless, the South side is attempting to find pretexts by making various excuses. Its decision to resume the Team Spirit joint military exercise cannot, however, be justified.

All of these examples show that no reason or pretext can justify the agreement the South side made with the United States to resume the Team Spirit joint military exercise, which had been suspended. Moreover, if the South side finally does hold the Team Spirit joint military exercise, it will be responsible for all consequences before our nation and history.

Because the South side agreed to resume the Team Spirit joint military exercise against the fellow countrymen in collaboration with outside forces, a grave situation is being created on North-South relations, which had been developing well.

As the whole world knows, various joint committees were scheduled to be held starting 5 November. All of the joint committees are, however, in a state of rupture [kyollyoldoen sangtae]. In particular, the ninth North-South high-level talks, which were to be held in Seoul beginning 21 December, were canceled. This is indeed deplorable. The North and the South were moving toward detente, but the situation now is one in which they are racing toward confrontation. As for our JNCC, it is merely being pushed ahead [chujin sangtae] without being able to designate the date of its meeting.

We have made every sincere effort to prevent this kind of situation. As everyone knows, we sent many telephone messages to the South side, issued statements in various forms and methods, and published various press statements to demand that the South side cancel the agreement it made with the United States to resume the Team Spirit joint military exercise.

In particular, as for our North-South JNCC, we convened the ninth JNCC meeting on 22 October, and raised and discussed the issue of canceling the agreement the South side made with the United States on resumption of the Team Spirit joint military exercise.

The purpose of the JNCC is for the North and the South to produce agreements on implementing the North-South joint declaration, as well as inspection regulations, with a view to removing the danger of nuclear war and nuclear threat and to denuclearizing the Korean peninsula. Thus, we urgently convened the ninth JNCC meeting and presented our just and fair demand in compliance with the mission and purpose of the JNCC. This notwithstanding, the South side did not respond to our demand.

Because the South side decided to resume the Team Spirit joint military exercise after agreeing with the United States, we tried to allow sufficient time to the South side to discuss their decision. Thus, we designated the date for settling the resumption of the Team Spirit as late as the end of November, and JNCC meetings were held on three occasions until the end of November.

The South side, however, failed to respond affirmatively. Even under these circumstances, our side had a spokesman of the North side's delegation to North-South high-level talks send another telephone message to the South side on 4 December to demand that the South side withdraw [cholhoe] the decision to resume the Team Spirit joint military exercise by 15 December. Ignoring our magnanimous and sincere efforts, the South side, however, avoided answering our demand and has not yet given any kind of any affirmative response.

The issue of what contents should be included in the North-South inspection regulations can be resolved through sincere discussions between the North and the South.

The South side, however, proposed unjust, unilateral contents which flagrantly violate the agreements the North and the South have already reached and claimed that the regulations of inspection, including regular and special inspections of military bases, should be adopted. They cannot convince the partner in dialogue of the validity of this theory.

In particular, the South side is attempting to solve problems by applying pressure on us. I would like to stress at this point that such maneuvers by the South side are indeed foolish. We clearly stated to the South side at the JNCC meeting that it should not attempt to apply any pressure on us in collaboration with outside forces, and that it should attempt to apply pressure if it wants to only after realizing who its partner in dialogue is. As for us, the dialogue partner, we are upholding the outstanding leader [suryong]; and the single-hearted unity among the leader, the party, and the masses has been attained. Therefore, even if the South side, along with the United States, tries to pressure us, such pressure will not work on us. Rather, if one pressure is put on us, we will respond to it with 10, with 100 pressures. If this situation actually takes place, nothing will be resolved.

Thus, we emphasized that the South side had better solve problems after correctly realizing who its dialogue partner is.

The South side continuously maintained the position of not adopting the documents of agreement on implementation of the joint declaration on denuclearization of the Korean peninsula, which deserve to be adopted at the JNCC, and thus avoided adopting the documents.

The adoption of the documents of agreement on implementation of the joint denuclearization declaration is demanded in Paragraph 1, Article 2, on formation and operation of the North-South JNCC. Paragraph 1 in Article 2 stipulates that at the JNCC, the North and the South should adopt annexed documents based on discussions of measures for implementing the joint declaration on denuclearization of the Korean peninsula. Annexed documents mean the documents of agreement while the joint declaration means the basic document.

However, the South side, continuously opposing them, waited to put forward draft documents of agreements on implementing the joint denuclearization declaration at the JNCC meeting for as long as two months after the first JNCC meeting was held. Thus, the South side acted insolently.

The South side's documents of implementation were merely documents of formality that simply repeated nearly all of the articles in the joint denuclearization declaration and failed to stipulate concrete contents.

The South side's avoidance of adopting documents of agreement on implementation of the joint declaration is a flagrant violation of Paragraph 1, Article 2 on formation and operation of the North-South JNCC. The South side claims that because the North and South are obligated to implement the joint declaration, it can be implemented without any document of agreement.

On the other hand, we maintained that even when the North and the South implement what is obligatory, they should implement it after expressly stipulating the contents included in the joint declaration. In particular, such obligatory contents can be correctly implemented only under the control of the North and the South and of the JNCC.

Although the South side put forward draft documents of agreement, after having been forced by our side's allegation, it has not abandoned its erroneous attitude of not trusting our position.

The North and the South selected nuclear materials, nuclear facilities, nuclear weapons, and nuclear bases as targets of nuclear inspection. The South side's demand, however, to inspect our military bases, even though we demanded an inspection of nuclear bases located in its area, is indeed unjust and [word indistinct]. In essence, we think that the South side has an insidious aim of hindering the inspection of U.S. nuclear weapons and nuclear bases in South Korea.

Furthermore, the South side calls for the principle of the same number of targets under the pretext of North-South mutual inspection. The South side wants to inspect 56 targets each year. Although there are 56 targets in the South that can be inspected each year, the North does not have this amount of targets. There are many more U.S. nuclear weapons and nuclear bases in the South, as well as nuclear materials and nuclear facilities, than in the North.

Therefore, the number of targets of nuclear inspection cannot be the same, and we cannot designate such a large number of targets. In view of this, we think the South side has an insidious scheme to inspect one thing or another that is not the target of nuclear inspection, using inspection of the same number of targets as a pretext after it came to our area. All of this shows that the South side put forward its unjust demands in flagrant violation of the joint denuclearization declaration.

Next, another difficult problem in adopting the nuclear inspection regulations is that although we demanded that all U.S. nuclear weapons and nuclear bases be designated as inspection targets so that their overall inspection can be conducted, the South side has been persistently opposed to it. As is known, the two sides already agreed on the issue of inspecting nuclear weapons and nuclear bases. This issue is clearly stipulated in Paragraphs 2 and 4, Article 2 in the agreement on formation and operation of the North-South JNCC.

Another difficult problem in the inspection regulations is that the South side calls for so-called special inspection. As for the special inspection, the South side claims that if one side demands an inspection, the other side should accept it for any target. We oppose such a demand because it is a flagrant violation of Paragraph 4 of the joint denuclearization declaration.

Paragraph 4 of the joint denuclearization declaration stipulates that the targets of inspection to verify the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula shall be designated by the opposite side, and an inspection shall be conducted on targets for which both sides reached an agreement according to the procedure and method prescribed by the JNCC.

I want to stress at this point that the two sides should reach an agreement on targets designated by the opposite side. However, the South side claims that if one side demands it, the inspection should be conducted. This flagrantly violates the joint denuclearization declaration.

Although the South side gives lipservice to implementation of the joint denuclearization declaration, North-South inspection, and so forth, it is actually scheming to block them.

Now I would like to mention briefly the South side's insidious purpose for delaying the adoption of inspection regulations and North-South inspection after having driven the North-South JNCC meeting into a state of rupture.

The South side's purpose was prompted by its adherence to the policy of depending on outside forces—the policy of relying on the United States—without a sense of national independence.

Because the South side has no sense of national independence, it overturned the agreement made with fellow countrymen and agreed to resume the Team Spirit joint military exercise with the United States.

If the South side attaches importance to the agreement with fellow countrymen and intends to give priority to the agreement with fellow countrymen over the agreement with outside forces, it absolutely should not have agreed with the United States to resume the Team Spirit joint military exercise, which totally goes against the agreement between the North and the South.

Because the South side depended on the United States for scores of years without a sense of national independence and customarily followed the American people, it agreed with the United States to resume the Team Spirit joint military exercise by ignoring the historic documents of agreement between the North and the South.

We should determine the South's true intention behind its decision to resume the Team Spirit joint military exercise.

After the historic North-South agreement and the historic joint denuclearization declaration were adopted, the North and the South were advancing toward detente and reconciliation. This hurt the United States' feelings, and it attempted to block the advance of North-South relations. In accordance with the United States' intention, the South side reversed the situation, which was advancing toward detente, and schemed to lead it toward confrontation. This is the very intention of the South side.

To what scheme did the South side then adhere in a bid to lead the situation toward confrontation? The U.S. Forces have occupied South Korea on the pretext of a nonexistent threat of southward invasion by the North. However, when the North and the South pledged reconciliation and nonaggression, the U.S. Forces lost their excuse for remaining in South Korea any longer. As a result, they tried to produce excuses like threat of southward invasion, and then produced a second theory on the threat of southward invasion. This is the very claim of our so-called fictitious nuclear development.

By slandering our nuclear development, the South side put it forward as threat of a second southward invasion and insisted that the U.S. forces should remain in South Korea. Thus, we came to realize that the true intention of the South side is to keep U.S. forces in South Korea, instead of making them withdraw.

The second aim the South side is pursuing is to avoid at any cost the inspection of U.S. nuclear weapons and nuclear bases in South Korea. I will not explain more about this as I already mentioned on this issue.

If the Team Spirit joint military exercise is not conducted and the work of the JNCC is carried out satisfactorily, the North-South nuclear inspection can be carried out before long. By doing this, we can verify whether U.S. nuclear weapons and nuclear bases exist or not. If this happens, existence of nuclear weapons and nuclear bases will be exposed. Therefore, the South side is advancing along the road of conducting the Team Spirit joint military exercise in an attempt to block such exposure at any cost. We consider this to be the very true intention of the South side.

Another major aim which the South side is pursuing by resuming the Team Spirit joint military exercise is to conceal the true aspects of nuclear weapons development it has undertaken behind the curtain of slanderous propaganda on our fictitious nuclear development, and to continue the development of nuclear weapons at any cost.

As exposed to the world through various materials and data, the South side is developing nuclear weapons. This is a fact officially acknowledged by the world. Because the true aspect of its development of nuclear weapons will be fully exposed in the event that the North-South nuclear inspection is conducted, the South side decided to resume the Team Spirit joint military exercise in a bid to prevent this aspect from being exposed at any cost.

At the 12th JNCC meeting and the 13th JNCC meeting held on 10 December and 17 December respectively, we fully exposed true aspects of the South side's development of nuclear weapons, and strongly demanded that the South side reveal the true aspects of nuclear weapons development and report them to our JNCC. However, the South side, evading answer to the end, has not shown any affirmative response to our just and fair demand.

It is a consistent position of the government of our Republic to achieve the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula by sincerely implementing the joint denuclearization declaration.

From the day of its founding, the government of our Republic implemented the anti-nuclear peace policy. Reflected in this policy is the great chuche idea which treasures mankind most.

Because the popular mass-centered socialism of our own style has been consolidated and developed, the issue of removing the danger of nuclear war from its source and of more highly demonstrating the independence and creativeness of the popular masses has become a more urgent issue.

Prompted by this, we intend to break through the prevailing crisis at any cost and to continue holding the JNCC meeting and members' contact.

It is our position to hold the basic JNCC meeting and members' contact at the same time. Only when the basic meeting is held satisfactorily from the outset, can the members' contact also be held satisfactorily. We placed the South side's demand into consideration, however, as nuclear inspection is more urgent for us than the South side [namchukboda uriga to cholbak hada].

Therefore, we maintain that the basic JNCC meeting and members' contact be held at the same time so that the inspection regulations be adopted at an early date.

We hold that the North-South nuclear inspection is more urgent for us because the fact that we are not developing nuclear weapons has been revealed to the entire world through inspections conducted many times by the International Atomic Energy Agency and because we believe that although the South side loudly talked about our fictitious nuclear weapons development, its suspicion has been greatly removed.

Although the South side claims, however, that the U.S. nuclear weapons and nuclear bases in the South were withdrawn and abolished, our suspicions have not been removed because we were unable to hold an inspection. Furthermore, we hear reports that although remarks were made on their withdrawal, the nuclear weapons are hidden underground. It was also revealed that the U.S. nuclear- submarines constantly visit the Chinhae nuclear base. Judging from all of this, our suspicions not only remain but are increasing.

Furthermore, various materials and data recently revealed that nuclear weapons are being developed in the South side. Therefore, our suspicions have not been removed. This being the case, the North-South inspection is more urgent for us, and we are in the situation in which we must carry out the inspection at an early date.

We intend to assume the inspection of U.S. nuclear weapons and nuclear bases as the basis for North South inspections in the future. We will call for the adoption of North-South inspection regulations so that the North-South inspections can be conducted at an early date. Even for this, we want to hold the JNCC meeting and members' contact at the same time.

We will make all utmost efforts to normalize the JNCC meeting and members' contact at an early date, to adopt documents of agreement on implementation of the joint declaration, as well as inspection regulations, and to realize the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula.

If the South side has the intention of sincerely implementing the joint denuclearization declaration, it should, even now, make a courageous decision to revoke its plan to resume the Team Spirit joint military exercise. The South side should also courageously decide to come to the 14th JNCC meeting and the 9th members' contact.

We asked the South side to designate the dates of the 14th JNCC meeting and the ninth members' contact. Thus, we hope that the South side designate the dates at an early date and come to the meeting and contact.

I have thus summarized the status of the works of the JNCC to realize the denuclearization. I hope that you, the reporters who represent justice and social public opinion, will pay close attention to our efforts to achieve the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula and to the work of the JNCC and will create good public opinion so that the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula be realized at an early date and the North-South inspections be conducted at an early date. Thank you.

Further on News Conference

SK3012110092 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1048 GMT 29 Dec 92

[News conference by Choe U-chin, the North side's chairman of the Joint Nuclear Control Committee, with domestic correspondents at the People's Palace of Culture in Pyongyang on 29 December—recorded]

[Text] [Unidentified NODONG SINMUN correspondent] I am a NODONG SINMUN correspondent. There have been many differences in views between the two sides in the course of the Joint Nuclear Control Committee meetings. In particular, our side has proposed that North-South inspections be conducted to verify denuclearization, and the South side has proposed that South-North mutual inspections be conducted. Would you elaborate on the differences between these proposals?

[Choe U-chin] We have proposed that inspections be conducted to verify the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula. The South side, however, has proposed that South-North mutual inspections be conducted. This means that the South side favors symmetric inspections and inspections of an equal number of sites based on the principle of reciprocity. As I have already explained, the South side has proposed that if we go to South Korea and inspect the U.S. nuclear weapons and nuclear bases, the South side, in return, inspects our side's military bases based on the principle of reciprocity. This also means that if we go to South Korea and inspect, for example, 50 sites, the South side will inspect 50 of the North's sites under the pretext of mutuality. This is a proposal inappropriate in the actual situation on the Korean peninsula.

As I have already stressed, we have proposed that the North and South conduct nuclear inspections based on the principle of simultaneously dispelling doubts and, particularly, in compliance with the North-South agreements. The inspection we favor is an inspection designed to completely and thoroughly achieve the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula, and the inspection based on the principle of reciprocity; that is, the principle of inspection of an equal number of sites site and the principle of symmetric inspection, is an inspection designed for the South side to fulfill its insidious purpose by inspecting sites other than sites for nuclear inspection under the pretext of nuclear inspection.

[Unidentified KOREAN CENTRAL NEWS AGENCY correspondent] I am a KOREAN CENTRAL NEWS AGENCY correspondent. Basic meetings [kibonhoeui] are very important in the operation of the JNCC. However, the South side has avoided basic meetings but insisted on only members' contacts. Would you elaborate on why the South side has done so?

[Choe] As for relations between basic meetings and members' contacts of the JNCC, holding basic meetings is the JNCC's basic mission. Holding basic meetings of the JNCC is stipulated in the Agreement on the Establishment and Operation of the North-South JNCC. And, members' contacts are adjunct meetings of the basic meetings, and are held as authorized by the basic meetings. Therefore, JNCC basic meetings must take place first and be main meetings. However, these days, the South side has consented to only members' contacts and avoided holding the JNCC basic meetings.

If the South side has the will to implement the joint declaration on denuclearization, has the true intention of bringing an end to the threat of nuclear war, and has the intention of resolving the fundamental point of consideration [paeryojjom] being raised in the adoption of the inspection rules, it should come to the basic meeting of the JNCC. Taking into consideration the South side's assertion as well, we want to promote the members' contacts as well.

[Unidentified Korean Central Broadcasting Committee correspondent] I think that in implementing the joint denuclearization declaration, the first thing to do is to adopt an agreement for its implementation. However, reviewing the entire process of the JNCC meetings to date, we note that the South side turned away from adopting the agreement, insisting only on adopting the inspection rules. What do you think about this matter?

[Choe] As I have already mentioned, the adoption of the agreement for the implementation of the joint declaration on the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula has already been agreed on between the North and the South. Only when we adopt the implementation agreement, can we realize the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula completely and thoroughly. The South side is unwilling to adopt the agreement for the implementation of the joint denuclearization declaration because it lacks the will to realize the denuclearization permanently, completely, and thoroughly, we think. Because we maintain that the agreement should specifically state not only the matter on eliminating the threat of nuclear war but the matter on how to ban the receipt, placement, and deployment of foreign nuclear weapons as well.

[Unidentified MINJU CHOSON correspondent] The work of the JNCC is not progressing smoothly at present. This worries not only the people at home and our compatriots overseas but the people of the world as well. What is your view of its prospects?

[Choe] The JNCC is facing a grave crisis. But we are not pessimistic about it, for neither the North nor the South can block the implementation of the joint denuclearization declaration. The joint denuclearization declaration was adopted and effectuated reflecting the yearning of the entire nation. It was effectuated with the approval [pijun] of the highest persons in authority [choego tanggukcha] of the North and the South. Therefore, the South side should not and cannot unilaterally revoke or nullify the joint denuclearization declaration. For this reason, we think that although the JNCC meetings are not making smooth progress at present, it will overcome the difficulty before long.

If the South side has the will to implement the joint denuclearization declaration, and if the South side's verbal emphasis on North-South inspection comes from its true intention, there will be no reason why the South side cannot come to the meeting at the date for the JNCC's basic meeting and at the date for the members' contact as we proposed. We, therefore, are not pessimistic but optimistic about its future.

Reunification Group on Ending Military Exercise

SK2512121492 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1100 GMT 25 Dec 92

[Text] Pyongyang December 25 (KCNA)—The Central Committee of the Democratic Front for the Reunification of the Fatherland in a statement today demands that the South Korean authorities, before it is too late, frankly apologize to the nation for their anti-dialogue and anti-peace act and unconditionally cross out the decision to resume the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises.

Supporting the statement of the North side's delegation to the North-South high-level talks clarifying its principled stand toward the ninth inter-Korean high-level talks, it bitterly denounces, in the name of the whole nation, the anti-dialogue and anti-peace act of the South Korean authorities who intend to force the "Team Spirit" war game, defying the repeated warnings served by the North side and challenging point-blank the unanimous desire of the whole nation.

Dismayed at the attention of the entire fellow countrymen and the world focused on the denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula, the South Korean authorities are scheming to put a spoke in the wheel of the Joint Nuclear Control Committee and avoid an overall inspection of the U.S. nuclear weapons and bases by forcing the "Team Spirit" war game and go ahead with their nuclear development program, the statement notes, and continues:

Only when the decision to resume the "Team Spirit" is revoked unconditionally can the suspended inter-Korean high-level talks be reopened, the North-South agreement effectuated with so much efforts be implemented, and the date of North-South nuclear inspection be moved up.

Should the South Korean authorities dare force the military manoeuvres, turning a deaf ear to the North's repeated warnings, they will have to bear full responsibility for all the consequences arising from this.

Daily Says 'Imperialists' Disturb Peace

SK2612042292 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0013 GMT 22 Dec 92

[NODONG SINMUN 22 December special article: "Modern Imperialists Are Disturbers of Peace"]

[Text] In his immortal work, "The Fundamental Issues on Building a Revolutionary Party," dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has indicated: Modern imperialists are maneuvering more viciously to dominate the world through strength by taking advantage of the collapse of the balance of power in the international arena.

The thesis of dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il pointed out the purpose pursued by modern imperialists after the Cold War, as well as their basic tactics to achieve it. That purpose is total world domination. The imperialists unvarying ambition, attributed to their aggressive and plunderous nature, is to dominate the world.

As long as the imperialists remain as imperialists, their aggressive and plunderous nature will not change. Therefore, their ambition to dominate the world will not change.

The modern imperialists claim that the new world is a world of free states [chayu kukka]; in other words, a world where more nations come into an expanded sphere of freedom [hwakdae toenun chayukwon]. This means that the new world dreamed of by modern imperialists is a one-pole world [ilgukhwaui segye] where there is no socialist country and where they dominate and rule everything by acting as masters. The modern imperialists even claim that the establishment of a one-pole world over which they have complete control is a task of the times.

The modern imperialists are undisguisedly pursuing their ambition for world domination while more arrogantly running wild after the end of the Cold War. The end of the Cold War resulted in a great change in international power relations. Since the Soviet Union was dissolved and its existence was brought to an end, the confrontation between the two superpowers ended, and the United States emerged as the only superpower. As a result, the balance of power was destroyed in the international arena, and international power relations suddenly became turned favorably for modern imperialists.

Regarding this change as the best chance to achieve their ambition for world domination, the modern imperialists are running wild without discretion.

The tactics the modern imperialists rely on in order to achieve world domination is domination and subjugation by means of strength. As history has shown, violence is the basic means upon which the imperialists rely. The imperialists constantly expanded the sphere of their influence by conquering and occupying other countries through counter-revolutionary violence.

The end of the Cold War does not mean the imperialists' have abandoned violence; rather, the imperialists adhere to the policy of strength with more cunning and malicious methods than in the Cold War period. They are using the signboard of detente and disarmament as a tool to disguise their policy of strength. The U.S. authorities kicked up a row about reducing and abolishing some useless nuclear weapons, military equipment, and manpower, on the pretext of disarmament. On the other hand, they are developing and reorganizing new nuclear weapons, military equipment, and combat units while manipulating military strategies behind the scenes.

In a series of official remarks, the U.S. military leaders undisguisedly noted that the United States should maintain the strongest military power corresponding to its position of the world's only superpower.

The defense planning guideline prepared by the U.S. Defense Department pointed out that the position of superpower should be maintained forever with constructive acts and military power which can deter challenge by any nation or a group of nations to the United States' superiority. In other words, the United States wants to strengthen its armed forces so that it can suppress with violence any force which hurts its feeling.

This proves that even after the Cold War, the United States assumes strength as a basic means to realize conquest of the world.

The United States' pursuance of the policy of strength has been more clearly revealed by its regional strategy. After the Cold War, the U.S. authorities said that they regard the threat of regional conflict and threat of certain limited missile attack as a most important point at issue, rather than the threat of the Soviet Union, and defined the regional strategy to cope with so-called a regional crisis and regional discord as a national strategy of the United States.

The U.S. military leaders noted that the new U.S. strategy is to concentrate its military power on an important local crisis which threatens U.S. interests. This shows that the U.S. regional strategy is strategy of strength designed to openly interfere in any area of the world and any target under the pretext of regional conflict and regional crisis by depending on military power.

The United States, in actuality, completed this war strategy. This is shown by the fact that the United States, in a scenario prepared by the U.S. military on a local war, touched on a nonexistent threat by someone else and pointed out immediate countermeasures for such threat by means of strength as the most important issue.

The imperialist warmongers made this a priority task of regional strategy after the Cold War to gain supremacy over our Republic by means of strength while talking about actual threat and so forth. By continuously dragging new military equipment and new types of weapons, they not only reinforced the U.S. forces in South Korea qualitatively but also accelerated modernization of the puppet armed forces.

At the same time, the U.S. imperialists, together with the South Korean authorities, are conducting each day aerial war exercise in the air above South Korea to attack at one time our frontline areas and depth of strategic points in the rear area by mobilizing a great number of various types of airplanes.

Some time ago, the U.S. forces and the puppet army conducted the Focus-Lens joint military exercise and 92-Eagle joint military exercise one after another in South Korea. Following this, they decided to resume the Team Spirit joint military exercise. All this shows that the U.S. imperialists' maneuvers for northward war of aggression reached a grave stage with each passing day.

The reality also proves that although the imperialists are giving lip service to detente and ensurance of peace, they are, in actuality, invariably pursuing the policy of strength which they adhered to during the Cold War period.

The imperialists' aggressive nature has never changed nor can it be changed. The maneuvers of modern imperialists to invade and dominate other countries by means of strength and to conquer the world are an anachronistic act going against today's trend toward detente and peace. This is an intolerable challenge to desire and aspirations of progressive people of the world to build a new, independent and peaceful world free from various types of domination and subordination and from aggression and war.

The modern imperialists are malicious disturbers of peace. The main target of struggle in achieving people's cause for peace is the reactionary imperialist forces. Without the struggle against the imperialists, aspirations and demand of progressive people of the world cannot be achieved. The more viciously the modern imperialists maneuver to realize domination of the world by means of strength, the stronger opposition of progressive people of the world will they face.

Anti-U.S. Demonstrations in South Reported

SK2512112692 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1029 GMT 25 Dec 92

[Text] Pyongyang December 25 (KCNA)—The anti-U.S. struggle for independence has been ceaselessly waged in South Korea this year with the participation of broad masses.

At the beginning of the year, the National Federation of Peasants Associations, the National Council of Peasants Organisations and many other organisations made public statements and letters of protest against the South Korean trip of Bush, peasants in South and North Cholla Provinces staged protest demonstrations and peasants from 50 counties held in Seoul demonstrations against the import of U.S. rice and Bush's tour of Seoul.

The National Council of Student Representatives (Chondaehyop) branded the Bush's trip as a plot to maintain the colonial domination over South Korea and denounced the U.S. pressure to open rice market and authorities' flunkeyist diplomacy.

While, students under the Kwangju-South Cholla District Federation of General Student Councils (Namchongnyon) and the Seoul District Federation of General Student Councils (Sochongnyon) staged anti-U.S. demonstrations in front of the American Cultural Centre and the U.S. Embassy, demanding the withdrawal of the U.S. forces from the Korean peninsula.

The National Alliance for democracy and reunification (Chonkukyonhap) at a press conference demanded that the government authorities reject the U.S. interference and pressure and implement the South-North agreement independently, and the Executive Committee of the National Council of Christian Churches issued a statement denouncing the arrogant attitude of the United States toward the nuclear problem on the Korean peninsula.

The South Korean people were persistently waging anti-fascist struggle for democracy and won an important victory.

The democratic forces which formed Chonkukyonhap last year, held the first May 18 people's rally for checking the reassumption of power by the Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) and establishing a democratic government with the attendance of more than 50,000 people of different strata, Chondaehyop set may as a "month of struggle to smash the DLP" and Sochongnyon held a ceremony for smashing the DLP and declaring may struggle.

Rallies and demonstrations staged by youth and students at 30 universities in Seoul and in 10 cities of South Korea on May 9 were expanded to 50 universities.

The vigorous struggle of the democratic forces and a strife in the DLP for power compelled the authorities to hatch up a deceptive trick to form a "neutral cabinet".

The struggle for alliance with the North was strengthened in South Korea this year.

In May Kwangju-South Cholla, Pusan, and South Kyongsang District federations of General Student Councils held inauguration ceremonies with the participation of 5,000 students each, flying the flags of the DPRK and Namchongnyon formed "Student Promoting Committee for Independence and Peaceful Reunification of the Country" with the DPRK flag hoisted.

Representatives of 17 dissident organisations including Chonkukyonhap, political parties and religious organisations and 11 religious organisations including the Human Rights Committee of the National Council of

Christian Churches strongly demanded the abolition of the "National Security Law" and release of prisoners of conscience and those who visited the North.

Daily Denounces South's 'Fascist Laws'

SK2612052292 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0438 GMT 26 Dec 92

["Repressive Order Camouflaged With 'People's Security'"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang December 26 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today comments on the instructions of the South Korean "police agency" to the police all over South Korea to "intensify public peace activities" around the new year.

Branding this as a repressive order under the cloak of "people's security," the analyst says:

The "sixth republic regime" proclaimed "a war against crimes" allegedly to wipe out "crimes against people's life." But it has brutally suppressed, arrested and penalised righteous-minded people demanding democracy, the right to live and reunification, not criminals.

The instructions of the South Korean rulers to set the "special period of crime prevention" this time, like the previous ones, are no more than a fascist repressive order intended to stifle at the point of the bayonet the anti-"government" struggle of the people which is mounting to a new tide toward the end of the year, by setting in-motion all the repressive forces.

While keeping in force the "national security law," an anti-democracy and anti-reunification evil law which binds the people to the fascist pillory, they are going to launch into a repressive campaign against the defenceless people. Yet they have the cheek to talk about "people's security." This is an act of brazen-faced hypocrites and an intolerable mockery of the people.

If the people are to greet the new year in safety, without inconvenience, all the fascist laws including the "national security law" must be scrapped first of all and the repression of people by "government"-power be ended.

Parole of Dissident Student in South Noted

SK2612052692 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0457 GMT 26 Dec 92

[Text] Pyongyang December 26 (KCNA)—Woman student Yim Su-kyong, the "flower of reunification", was released on parole from the Chongju Women's Prison on December 24, according to a radio report from Seoul.

Though she suffered behind bars for three years and five months, she looked bright and undaunted, said the report.

The South Korean authorities had arrested her by invoking the "National Security Law" when she went back to South Korea after participating in the 13th World Festival of Youth and Students held in Pyongyang in 1989 as a Representative of the National Council of Student Representatives (Chondaehyop).

Korean people in the North, South and abroad and world people had persistently struggled for the release of the woman student and other people who visited the North.

Father Mun Kyu-hyon who had accompanied her back to the South across the demarcation line was also released on parole on the same day.

The prison term of Rev. Mun Ik-hwan has been "reduced" but no "pardon" was announced for Yu Won-ho who was arrested with him.

Institute Releases Article on South's Economy

SK2612105692 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1028 GMT 26 Dec 92

["South Korean Economy - End of Vanity and Gloomy Prospect"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang December 26 (KCNA)—The Institute of National Reunification made public an article on the subject "South Korean Economy - End of Vanity and Gloomy Prospect".

The article cites materials revealing the gloomy present and future of the South Korean economy which had once boasted of "high-rate growth".

The article says:

Fantastic trumpeting about the "establishment of the state on the basis of export" and "high-rate growth" has never ceased in South Korea. But, truth to tell, the South Korean economy has run downhill of the present chaos, repeating vicious cycles of vicissitudes.

The great leader President Kim Il-song has taught:

"Under the influence of the economic crisis which the capitalist countries are now undergoing, the South Korean economy is getting deeper into a state of bankruptcy."

The economic bankruptcy of South Korea is very serious. In the woeful depression, export is in the doldrums externally and prices are skyrocketing due to inflation internally.

The South Korean economy, being "export-oriented," stakes its fate on export. And it is being suffocated, engulfed in the fierce "trade war" of the capitalist world.

South Korea is standing on the verge of a cliff with a trade deficit close to 10 billion dollars and foreign debts to the tune of 50 billion dollars or more.

While the trade gap is widening and foreign debts are snowballing, the economic growth rate is sliding down and the industry, agriculture, the export industry and the industries for the domestic market are on the wane.

The South Korean economy brings to the haves pleasure and luxury, but it offers no job, house and regular meal to the havenots.

There are two million fully unemployed and nearly five million semi-unemployed people in South Korea.

The shortage of residential houses in South Korea reached 60 percent in 1991, and the burdens of taxes and medical treatment and educational fees are stupendous. Annual taxes of almost 200 odd kinds per capita add up to 900,000 won. More than 10,000 persons commit suicide every year, pessimistic of the difficult living. The children who are abducted every year number 40,000. And two million women walk the streets.

All this is the true picture of the South Korean economy and the dark aspect of society viewed from the point of people's livelihood.

Noting that the South Korean economy has been reduced to a colonial dependent economy in every respect, owing to the U.S. imperialists' policy of aggression for nearly half a century, the article says:

The South Korean economy is not the "dragon splashing in River Han", but an "earthworm" which can no longer stir in the mud of colonial dependence.

The root cause of the general crisis of the South Korean economy and the multiplying hardships of life is colonial dependence.

The South Korean economy is a colonial dependent economy which serves for the interests of the U.S. and other foreign monopolies and fattens them.

The foreign monopoly capital which has made its way into South Korea comes somewhere around 70 billion dollars. The foreign monopolies carry away a total of 21 billion dollars annually in the forms of interests, industrial profits and trade profits.

As many analysts say in unison, the South Korean economy is "a colonial hen" which lays "golden eggs" for the master of the suzerain state.

The flunkeyist, treacherous and anti-popular economic policy of the puppet government and the structural vulnerability of the South Korean economy are also an important cause of the present economic catastrophe and people's impoverishment. The South Korean economy, a subcontract industry of the U.S. and Japanese multi-national corporations, is handicapped by structural contradictions and weakness characteristic of serious imbalance between domains, deformity and lopsidedness.

The political upheavals and social irregularities and corruption are another factor of the present economic crisis.

As regards the irregularities and corruption, South Korean people deplore "politics ruining the economy" and brand the political funds as "cancer of economy".

With the colonial rule of the U.S. imperialists and the dependent economic structure left as they are, it is impossible to fundamentally tide over the current difficulties of the South Korean economy or bring under control the economic chaos and hardships of life.

Turning to the quite different realities of the North and the South, the article says:

If the socialist economy of our style is the heaven, the colonial economy of South Korea is the earth. The dragon which has soared high into the heaven is the chuche-based socialist independent economy which is making a long drive, while the earthworm on the bank of River Han is the South Korean economy which has been reduced to an appendage to the U.S. economy.

The economic conditions in the North and the South are a living proof of the superiority of Korean-style socialism to capitalism.

Stating that a smooth economic development and the promotion of the wellbeing of the people cannot be expected in the capitalist market economy, the article says:

The problem of the market economy is not a mere economic matter but an issue related to the human rights, a universal value of the world, and a most serious political problem.

Should mankind take this road?

If the market economy were brought to court, it would face the death sentence for its heinous crimes in inflicting disasters upon mankind for centuries.

Anyone who is capable of correctly understanding the essence of phenomena and the law of its development cherishes the immovable faith that socialism is the only way out and a correct option for freeing the people from the present economic crisis which South Korea and world capitalism are undergoing and making all people equally well off as in the northern half of Korea.

Daily Examines Problems in South's Economy

SK2612113692 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1057 GMT 26 Dec 92

["Problem of Market Economy Is Most Serious Political Matter"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang December 26 (KCNA)—A smooth development of economy and the promotion of the people's wellbeing cannot be expected in the capitalist market economy in which the jungle law holds sway, declares NODONG SINMUN today in an article published by the Institute of National Reunification.

Referring to the problem of the capitalist market economy, the article headlined "South Korean Economy—End of Vanity and Gloomy Prospect" says:

If the capitalist market economy is so "charming" and it is "a common value of mankind", how can we explain the situation of many poor nations of the world which introduced market economy long ago? If it has a "bright future", why has "the theory of rise and fall" of the United States, the general headquarters of the "free market economy," come to the fore?

The capitalist market economy is an unequal system that has not only widened the gap between the rich and the poor in individual countries but also polarized the world into the rich "North" and the poor "South" and a jungle-law system that has turned the world into a theatre of rowdyism in which nations conquer others or are conquered. It is also an inhumane system that treats human beings as commodities and regard the value of people as the exchange value and an anti-human system that lays waste the globe by environmental pollution to endanger the existence of mankind itself.

The problem of the market economy is not a mere economic matter but an issue related to the human rights, a universal value of the world, and a most serious political problem.

Should mankind take this road?

If the market economy were brought to court, it would face the death sentence for its heinous crimes in inflicting isasters upon mankind for centuries.

Anyone who is capable of correctly understanding the essence of phenomena and the law of its development cherishes the immovable faith that socialism is the only way out and a correct option for freeing the people from the present economic crisis which South Korea and world capitalism are undergoing and making all people equally well off as in the northern half of Korea.

Yi Chong-ok Marks Socialist Constitution Day

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[Text] Pyongyang December 26 (KCNA)—A national meeting was held at the February 8 House of Culture today to observe the 20th anniversary of the promulgation of the Socialist Constitution of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

It was attended by Yi Chong-ok and Pak Song-chol, members of the Political Bureau of the C.C. [Central Committee], the WPK [Workers Party of Korea] and vice-presidents, and other party and government officials.

Vice-president Yi Chong-ok delivered a report at the meeting.

The institution and enforcement of the "Socialist Constitution of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea" 20 years ago marked a historical event of epochal significance in the socio-political life of our people and the accomplishment of their revolutionary cause, he said, and continued:

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, not wedded to the existing theories and established experiences, indicated a way of establishing a new-type constitution from a chuche-based stand for the first time in history, the constitution which defines all the principles of political, economic and cultural fields in an allround way, to put an end to the old way of writing a constitution and completely renew the system of the establishment of the constitution in conformity with the nature of the socialist system and the law- governed demand of socialist and communist construction.

Noting that the advantages and vitality of the Socialist Constitution have been fully displayed, the reporter said:

As the Socialist Constitution has been observed under the wise guidance of the party and the leader, the chuche-oriented revolutionary principle has been maintained steadfastly in the state activities, the revolutionary system and order established more thoroughly in the whole society and the three revolutions, ideological, technical and cultural, powerfully accelerated, with the result that the nation's political, economic and military power has increased remarkably.

In our country where the principle of independence in politics is firmly maintained lines and policies are all shaped and carried into practice in keeping with the desire and demand of our people and our specific conditions on the basis of independent confidence and decision.

With the strict application of the principles of self-sustenance in economy and self-reliance in national defense which are stipulated in the Socialist Constitution the independence of our economy has become stronger than ever before and grown at a high tempo, not affected by any worldwide economic fluctuation and self-defensive national defense has been built up as firm as rock to frustrate any invasion of the imperialists and reliably defend the nation's sovereignty. As a result, our socialism centred on the popular masses is fully demonstrating its undisputed advantages and vital energies.

The reporter stressed that the great victories and achievements made by our people in socialist construction and in all provinces of state and social life by applying the Socialist Constitution are the fruition of the outstanding and tested guidance of the respected leader Comrade Kim Il-song, and a clear proof of the validity and vitality of the lines and policies of our party and the government of the republic.

He referred to the tasks to decisively destroy the counterrevolutionary offensive and anti-DPRK schemings of the imperialists and reactionaries, achieve the country's independent reunification and firmly defend and steadily push ahead with the cause of socialism, the cause of independence.

The reporter quoted the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il as saying:

"Our people will never hesitate or yield in the future, whatever the situation and whatever the adversity. We shall implement our party's general line which embodies the chuche idea and carry the cause of socialism and communism to brilliant fruition."

The Socialist Constitution of chuche serves as a mighty political weapon that must be firmly adhered to in the struggle to implement our party's general line of building the cause of Socialism and Communism.

We should strengthen the people's power and constantly enhance its functions and role and, at the same time, press on with the three revolutions, ideological, technical and cultural, by more strictly applying the Socialist Constitution.

What is of particular importance in the ideological revolution for the present is to fully maintain the purity of the socialist idea, the reporter said, and went on:

We must stand firm against all unsound ideas, including capitalist idea, revisionism and flunkeyism, dangerous ideological trends harmful and obstructive to socialism, and throughly reject their slightest elements.

Calling for the enhanced functions of the people's power bodies, the reporter declared: Now that the imperialists continue anti-socialist campaign and unsound elements act in step with it the people's power bodies should always raise the function of dictatorship so as to nip counterrevolutionary, anti-socialist elements in the bud and destroy in time the manoeuvrings to impede the revolution and construction and destroy the socialist system.

Speaks on Constitution Day

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[Speech by Yi Chong-ok, member of the Political Bureau of the Workers Party of Korea Central Committee and vice president, at a central report meeting held in the February 8 Hall of Culture on 26 December, marking the 20th anniversary of the promulgation of the Socialist Constitution—live]

[Text] Comrades: Today, at a historic time when the country's people are further glorifying socialism of our own style, united as one with a faith in certain victory and with revolutionary optimism under the wise leadership of the party and leader, we are expressively commemorating Socialist Constitution Day. [applause]

The institution and enforcement of the DPRK Socialist Constitution by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song 20 years ago was a historic event of epoch-making significance in our people's social and political life, and in the implementation of the revolutionary cause. [applause]

The institution and enforcement of the Socialist Constitution have prepared a mighty legal guarantee for our people to consolidate the revolutionary sovereignty and socialist gains that they achieved through a long arduous struggle. They also have prepared a guarantee to push ahead more vigorously with the chuche revolutionary cause.

On the occasion of the felicitous Socialist Constitution Day, our people thoroughly recall the proud journey of having victoriously pushed ahead with the popular masses' independence cause and socialist cause by embodying the chuche-based Socialist Constitution which opened a new stage in mankind's constitutional history.

Institution and enforcement of a true, people-oriented and revolutionary constitution is one of the important problems that the working class party and state, which took over the nation's administration, should solve in order to manage and operate correctly the state and society during the period of fulfilling their historic mission from the first day of building a new society.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, from the time of the anti-Japanese struggle, considered establishment of a revolutionary constitution for the working class and the popular masses as an important political problem in operating the state and managing the society, and deeply studied a way for correctly solving this problem.

After having a keen insight into the changed historical conditions of our age, a chuche age, and the new practical demand of the socialist, communist construction, the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song established our Socialist Constitution. It is a totally new-type political charter never seen in constitutional history, based on his creative idea shaped during the period of the anti-Japanese struggle. It was also shaped by his abundant experience of building the state and laws accumulated during the long revolutionary struggle. [applause]

Our country's Socialist Constitution that the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song personally established is a chuche-based political charter that legally fixed the great victories and brilliant successes achieved by our people in the revolution and construction. It generally reflects the nature and superiority of the socialism of our own style. It is also an encyclopedic series on revolution and construction that defines all principles of the state and social life, and important tasks in the course of implementing the socialist, communist cause.

Indeed, our country's Socialist Constitution is the programmatic law that elucidates the future of the people's struggle for a new independent life. Our country's Socialist Constitution is the classic document that has contributed to the development of the working class's revolutionary theory of law, as well as the progressive culture of law. [applause]

Our country's Socialist Constitution is a new, superior socialist constitution which embodies the immortal chuche idea. Based on the chuche idea ideologically, theoretically, and methodically, our country's Socialist Constitution differs from other constitutions. This is because our country's Socialist Constitution is centered on the working popular masses, masters of the state and society. Our country's Socialist Constitution entirely regulates general principles and methods to ensure and protect the working popular masses' independent and creative life.

The basic characteristics of our country's Socialist Constitution are expressed in their newly defining all issues concerning the life of the state and society in keeping with the status and role of the working popular masses, masters of the socialist society. The basic characteristics of our country's Socialist Constitution are also expressed by their consistently being based on the general systems and contents to ensure independent and creative life for the popular masses.

Considering its contents and systems based on the chuche idea's basic stand and method, our country's Socialist Constitution is the original chuche-oriented constitution which completely prepares for a new field.

From a chuche-based stand for the first time in history, the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, not confined to the existing theories and established experiences, indicated a way for establishing a new-type constitution which defines all the principles of political, economic, and cultural fields. By so doing, he put an end to the old method of writing a constitution. He completely renewed the contents and the system of the constitution, in conformity with the nature of the socialist system and the law-governed demand for socialist, communist construction.

The contents and the system of a new constitution, created by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, were brilliant results borne by the chuche idea. These were also immortal and historic exploits which opened the new era in the work of instituting the Constitution, and in developing constitutional theory. [applause]

In addition to instituting the Socialist Constitution, the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song put forward the revolutionary policy to embody thoroughly the Constitution in all areas of the state and social life, to effect a new turn in the revolutionary struggle for construction work on the basis of the Constitution. He has wisely organized and led the struggle to implement the revolutionary policy.

Based on the Socialist Constitution, the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song personally planned the general structure of the original socialist legal system of our own style. He also personally instituted the revolutionary and people-minded laws, including the law on indoctrinating and educating children, the law on the people's public health, the law on the land, and the law on socialist labor. He established a new system to guide a law-abiding life. He also saw to it that the struggle to embody the Constitution in all fields should be vigorously waged.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's ideology and leadership of thoroughly observing the Socialist Constitution have been implemented more brilliantly and comprehensively by our party's outstanding and tested guidance in keeping with a new demand for the revolutionary development.

Our party has seen to it that the work to embody the Socialist Constitution will be substantially promoted, in close combination with the struggle to enhance the role and function of the people's regime in order to vigorously press ahead with the three revolutions—ideological, technological, and cultural.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il put forward a new, unique policy on establishing the revolutionary trait of obeying laws across the whole society by embodying the program of chuche-orientation of the entire society in the juridical field. He has energetically led the struggle to implement the policy. As a result, the work to embody the Socialist Constitution has been deepened and developed in all fields of state activities and social life. [applause]

Indeed, thanks to the wise leadership of the great leader and our party, the past 20 years since our country's Socialist Constitution was instituted and enforced have been glorious. Our state's socialist system has been constantly consolidated and developed, and the chuche cause has been successfully advanced under a firm legal guarantee. In addition, the past 20 years have been worthwhile years of struggle in which our people have achieved great success in revolution and construction while upholding the task indicated by the chuche-oriented constitution. [applause]

Our country's Socialist Constitution has been comprehensively embodied in all fields of revolution and construction, with brilliant results. It has clearly proven its vitality and validity through practice.

As the Socialist Constitution has been followed under the wise leadership of the party and the leader, the chuche-oriented revolutionary principle has been steadfastly maintained in state activities. The revolutionary system and order have been more thoroughly established in all of society. The three revolutions—ideological, technological, and cultural—have been powerfully accelerated. As a result, the nation's political, economic, and military power has been strengthened remarkably.

In our country, where the principle of independence in politics is firmly maintained, all lines and policies are shaped and put into practice in keeping with the desire and demand of our people and our specific conditions based on independent faith and judgment. As a result, our revolution has been vigorously and constantly advanced along the single road of victory without even the slightest deviation and stagnation. [applause]

With the thorough application of the principles of economic self-sufficiency and self-reliance in national defense, which are stipulated in the Socialist Constitution, the independence of our economy has become stronger than ever and has grown quickly, unaffected by worldwide economic fluctuations. Self-reliance in national defense has been built up as firm as rock and can frustrate any invasion by the imperialists and reliably defend the nation's sovereignty. As the national political, economic, and military power has been firmly strengthened, our socialism of our own style centered on the popular masses is fully bringing into full play its incomparable superiority and validity.

The socialism of our own style, which our people chose themselves under the party's leadership and which they have constructed with their own strength in keeping with our country's specific situation, is the genuine society for the people. This is because the socialism of our own style has brilliantly fulfilled the people's inherent demands as independent social beings.

Our country's socialism has firmly ensured the working popular masses' position as the masters of politics. Our country's socialism has provided them with the most worthwhile and valuable political and living conditions.

Thanks to the democratic politics of the party and the state, all working people are equal social members, with equal political rights, and they have exercised their sovereignty and participated in managing the state as befitting a master. Everyone who belongs to the political organizations led by the party leads a political organizational life.

In our country, all the working people have steadfastly armed themselves with the chuche idea, have firmly rallied around the party and the leader, and have glorified the noble socio-political life. This is inconceivable without the revolutionary political organizational life. The political organizational life of our people is the loftiest life of independent social beings. The important wellspring of the political and ideological might of our socialist society is contained it it. [applause]

The imperialists and reactionaries are branding the working class party organization and their political organizational life led by a party's political organization as a restriction of freedom. The imperialists and reactionaries are clamorously babbling about freedom and human rights. However, this is nothing but a deception and a vicious strategy to undermine our revolutionary ranks ideologically and mentally.

History and reality confirm that the imperialists and reactionaries, who have waged political terrorism against innocent people and figures calling for freedom and democracy and who have infringed upon the basic democratic freedom and the right to existence of the working people, are the ones who infringe upon human rights.

The infringement of human rights that have been committed in South Korea under the U.S. imperialists' manipulation clearly show how hypocritical and presumptuous the imperialists' clamor about guaranteeing human rights is.

The revolutionary political organizational life and the socialist economic life have ensured our people equal and affluent material lives. In our country, in which the popular masses become the genuine masters of the state and society, all of the people have enthusiastically participated in economic management.

Our people have deeply experienced an affluent and cultural life that only the social ownership system can ensure. They have constantly regarded the social ownership system as invaluable. They have struggled devotedly to strengthen and develop the social ownership system.

Under the people-oriented policy and consideration of the party and the state, our people have been provided with food at a very low price by the state. They are provided with food, clothing, and shelter. They are given stable jobs according to their ability and temperatment. They are bringing into full bloom the worthwhile and creative life.

We can be stalwart in saying that our country is the only country that guarantees all human rights, including the right to work; the right to food, clothing, and shelter; and the right to education and medical treatment. [applause]

Our people are glorifying the social human being's great sense of independence and dignity with the chuche idea, a great idea of leadership in this age, and are enjoying elevated ideological and cultural lives as creators and possessors of spiritual and cultural assets.

The sound, equal, and sufficient material and cultural lives that our people enjoy today is the true life that conforms with the social human being's nature and is the most worthwhile life. It can be found only in our country's socialism, which poses popular mass-oriented politics under the banner of the chuche idea.

This is what the rotten capitalist society, which has a serious gap between the rich and the poor and various social evils due to people's unequal, deformed material life and poor ideological and cultural life, never think about.

An important characteristic of man as social animal is his natural inclination to live in a social group in an atmosphere of cooperation and in order to share a destiny. A social system's fulfillment of man's collectivist inclination is an important measure in the progress of the social system.

Considering collectivism to be the life of socialism, our party and government have constantly carried out communist indoctrination of functionaries and the working people, including indoctrination after the chuche idea and collectivism, and have made great efforts to make all the people strengthen their single-minded unity.

Thanks to the party's correct leadership, all the people are firmly united around the party and the leader in our country based on the great chuche idea. The single-minded unity between the leader, the party, and the masses is the source of the eternal vitality of our country's socialism. [applause]

Our people, proud and dignified as the people who are carrying on the revolution, devote all their strength and wisdom to the struggle to build socialism and highly display the communist trait of working and living in a revolutionary manner, helping and leading one another based on the collectivist principle of "one for all and all for one."

The fact that the entire society forms a big political family, in which the leader, the party, and the masses are united as one social and political organism sharing life and death, is our society's true countenance, of which we can be very proud, and is the most brilliant success achieved by our people in the struggle to embody the Socialist Constitution. [applause]

The socialism of our own style that our people have built with their own strength under the party's leadership is the true society of the people, in which everything serves the people. It is the most vital society that is constantly developing on the firm basis of independence, self-reliance, and self-defense.

The great party has its roots deep in the popular masses, the great people who faithfully uphold the party's leadership, and in popular mass-centered socialism, which has embodied the chuche idea. These are the basis of the solidity of our socialism and the source of its might in overcoming all difficulties and hardships. [applause]

Counter-socialist maneuvers of the imperialists and reactionaries have today reached an extreme and socialism has been frustrated in many countries. Under this grave situation, however, our socialism is stoutly moving forward along the road of chuche without wavering. The progressive people of the world are expressing their envy and compliment us on this. They rose in the struggle by cherishing a new confidence and courage. They are firmly confident in the bright future of the socialist cause of the world.

In particular, the South Korean people, youth and students are looking up at the prosperous northern half of the Republic as a beacon of hope, where the genuine society for the people was built under the ray of the chuche idea. They are unswervingly struggling for the day when they will live under mass-centered politics implemented by the great leader and dear comrade leader.

Our people, through their practical experience have realized that our socialist system, which took firm root on this land and which blooms and develops with each passing day, is a most superior social system with a vitality that truly ensures independent and creative socialist life for the popular masses by regarding them as most precious. Our people are firmly resolved to defend tenaciously and accomplish the socialist cause to the end, and are vigorously fighting for it.

The great victory and achievements made by our people in socialist construction and in all domains of social life by embodying the Socialist Constitution are the fruition of outstanding and tested leadership of the respected leader Comrade Kim Il-song. They are clear proof of the justness and vitality of our party's policies and the Government of the Republic. [applause]

Comrade Kim Il-song, the great leader of our party and people, unfolded a new history of the genuine Socialist Constitution with the brilliant ray of the immortal chuche idea, and built a wealthy and strong socialist country on this land which is full of independent and creative life. He is always leading our people along the single road of victory and glory. Taking this significant opportunity of marking the 20th anniversary of announcement of Socialist Constitution, I extend the greatest honor and deepest thanks to him together with a sense of boundless admiration and ardent loyalty of all people. [applause]

Comrades, today our people face an important task to achieve the independent reunification of the nation by resolutely crushing the counterrevolutionary offensive and counter-republic maneuvers of the imperialists and reactionaries. We should staunchly defend, protect and constantly develop the socialist cause, the cause of popular masses for independence.

Because of malicious maneuvers of the imperialists and reactionaries, socialism is currently undergoing trials. However, the movement of mankind toward socialism is the rule in history's development, which no one can block.

By cherishing confidence in a sure victory and an unswerving revolutionary spirit, we should deal with the imperialists and reactionaries' counter-revolutionary offensive by means of a revolutionary offensive. We should turn an adverse situation into a favorable situation, and misfortune into a blessing. We should register constant upsurges in the revolution and construction. [applause]

It is indeed important to strengthen and develop constantly the state and social system, and to carry out victoriously the revolution and construction in order to achieve the demands of the Socialist Constitution.

We should thoroughly embody the Socialist Constitution in all domains of state and social life, and we should further expedite the complete victory of socialism and the historic cause of national reunification.

For the past 20 years, since the Socialist Constitution was formulated and effectuated, our party revised and supplemented the Constitution in a forward-looking manner in compliance with the new development demands of the revolution based on brilliant victory and success attained in socialist construction. Our party, therefore, has taken epoch-making steps to further consolidate the legalistic ensurance of socialism of our own style.

We should maintain the chuche-based Socialist Constitution as a powerful legal weapon for the revolution and construction. We should thoroughly accomplish the general line of our party on socialist and communist construction. Thus, we should adhere to and accomplish the socialist cause, the cause of popular masses for independence, to the end.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has indicated: No matter how complex the situation may be and no matter what trials await us, our people will never hesitate or retreat a step, but will accomplish to the end the general line of our party, which embodies the chuche idea. We will thus brilliantly accomplish the socialist and communist cause.

The chuche-based Socialist Constitution is a powerful political weapon to which we should firmly adhere in the struggle to accomplish our party's general line on socialist and communist construction.

By more thoroughly embodying the Socialist Constitution, we should strengthen the popular government and should constantly enhance its functions and rule. We should also vigorously carry out the three revolutions—ideological, technological and cultural.

The ideological revolution is a work to provide the main force of socialist and communist society by arming people with an independent ideological consciousness. Only when the people satisfactorily carry out the ideological revolution, which reforms their ideological consciousness, can they emancipate all members of society from various types of outdated ideological constraints and firmly arm them with the socialist idea. Thus, they will be able to successfully achieve the socialist and communist cause.

As experience shows, when the popular masses arm themselves with socialist ideology and unite themselves as one based on this idea, socialism will be victorious. When the popular masses become ideologically ill, however, socialism is destined to ruin.

The superiority of socialist society over that of capitalist society is ideological superiority, and the might of socialism is nothing but the might of ideology.

We should constantly maintain the principle of giving priority to the ideological revolution in the struggle to build socialism and should deepen and develop the ideological revolution in compliance with advancing the revolution and construction.

The basic factor in carrying out the ideological revolution is to arm all people with the chuche idea—our party's revolutionary idea—and based on this, to firmly realize the ideological unity of whole society.

The chuche idea is an ever-victorious guiding ideology which gives confidence in sure victory of the socialist cause—the cause of popular masses for independence. This is a firm ideological foundation which ensures unity and cohesion of the revolutionary ranks.

By thoroughly embodying the demand of the Constitution, we can strengthen in every way the ideological and conscious unity and cohesion of our revolutionary ranks based on the chuche idea by assuming the chuche idea as a firm guideline in the state activities.

A basic task of the ideological revolution is to arm all members of society with a revolutionary view of the leader, the organization, and the masses. It is also a basic method for making the entire society a solid united body of the leader, the party, and the masses.

We should foster all people to be genuine revolutionary warriors who are endlessly loyal to the party Central Committee headed by respected Comrade Kim Il-song, and we should unite all people with the party and the leader so that they become a social and political organism in which they share their destiny.

The important issue in the ideological revolution now is to firmly safeguard the purity of socialist ideology. We should staunchly struggle against capitalist ideas—a dangerous ideological trend that destroys and spoils socialism—and various unsound ideologies including revisionism and flunkeyism, and should thoroughly reject even minor elements of such ideologies.

At the same time, we should firmly arm all workers with faith in the justness and victory of socialist cause and should encourage them to struggle by dedicating their lives to the final victory of the socialist cause.

The cultural revolution is intended to allow all people to enjoy socialist cultural life by emancipating them from outdated cultural constraints and by creating a socialist culture that serves the popular masses.

By giving priority to educational work, we should more highly display the superiority of our educational system and should achieve intellectualization of the entire society at an early date. We should create a revolutionary and popular culture corresponding to the independent aspirations, ideas, feelings, and emotions of the popular masses. Thus, we can satisfactorily guarantee the socialist cultural life for the people.

Particularly important in carrying out the cultural revolution today is the development of a socialist culture capable of successfully blocking the imperialists' ideological and cultural infiltration.

We should brilliantly develop the socialist culture that serves the popular masses and should enable all people to fully enjoy the socialist cultural life. Thus, we should enable socialist culture to crush the capitalist culture and should prevent corrupt and bad bourgeois culture from infiltrating our inner area.

The technological revolution is a basic method for providing a material and technological foundation corresponding to the demand of socialist and communist society by remaking nature.

We should carry out the technological revolution on the principle of satisfactorily realizing the chucheization, modernization, and scientization of the people's economy. We should also carry it out based on our people's creativity in conformity with our country's specific reality. All sectors of the people's economy should wage a vigorous and continuous struggle to improve technology and mechanize, automate, and introduce remote control systems in production processes, so as to strengthen the self-reliance of the national economy and move the country's economy onto a higher base of science and technology.

The important problem in carrying out the technological revolution is to maintain the chuche-minded position with a correct view of the technological revolution. Having a fantasy of the advanced technology of capitalist countries without believing our own strength is very harmful. All the functionaries should maintain a firm chuche-oriented position and fully mobilize the country's economic potential and rapidly develop the economy and technology by actively inspiring the revolutionary zeal and creativity of the popular masses. By so doing, they should demonstrate in actions the unequalled superiority of socialist society, in which the state conducts in a unified way the work of technological development on the principle of collectivism, to the capitalist society, which is based on individualism, in developing science and technology as well.

Today, when the imperialists are stepping up the counter-revolutionary offensive against our Republic which is advancing under the banner of socialism, it is an important to defend resolutely and adhere to our state and social system to embody the revolutionary laws, including the Socialist Constitution.

The imperialists and reactionaries are now viciously slandering our state and social system, raving as if we do not open ourselves up [uriga machido kaebanghaji annungochorom ttodulgo]. This is sophism that grossly distorts reality [igosun hyonsirul simhi waegokhan kwebyone chinaji anssumnida]. Our Socialist Constitution not only clearly stipulates that we form and develop the state, political, economic, and cultural relations with all the countries of the world based on the principles of complete equality, independence, mutual respect, and noninterference in internal affairs, but it comprehensively provides for all the clauses for the development of international relations, including opening ourselves up [kaebanghannugosul pirothayo]. As the entire world knows, our Republic has never closed its door to anyone, nor will it do so in the future as well.

Reality being as such, some countries rave about the issue of our country's opening up. Resting in it is an insidious design to obliterate our socialist cause by isolating us politically, economically, and diplomatically and putting continuous pressure on us. No matter how persistent and vicious the counter-revolutionary offensive the imperialists wage against our Republic, we have no fear as long as we have the mighty legal weapon which enables us to defend resolutely and adhere to the socialist system and as long as we have the leadership of the party and state which firmly maintains it. We will wage a vigorous struggle along the road put forth in the Socialist Constitution to embody more thoroughly the revolutionary principles of the working class in all the fields of the revolution and construction, and solidify our state's political and economic might in every way. [applause]

Strengthening the people's regime and enhancing its function and role as required by the Socialist Constitution are important parts of the general line of building socialism and communism and a decisive guarantee for correctly managing and operating a socialist society and successfully carrying out socialist and communist construction.

Only when we further strengthen the people's regime and endlessly enhance its function and role in step with the deepening and development of socialist construction can we vigorously carry out the ideological, technological, and cultural revolutions, successfully remodel human beings and remake the nature, and transform, develop, and complete social relations in political, economic, and cultural fields and all the other fields in a socialist style.

An important issue in enhancing the function and role of the people's regime's today is further strengthening the state's unified guidance on society. Without the state's unified guidance, we cannot correctly achieve the popular masses' unity and cooperation based on society's common interests or purposefully lead the popular masses' struggle to build socialism and communism. Therefore, the people's regime must command and manage political, economic, and cultural fields and all the other fields of social life in a unified manner.

The Taean work system, which the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song created based on the basic principles on the socialist state's activities, is not only a guidance and management system for the socialist economy but also a political plan to manage and operate the overall socialist society. It is also a revolutionary and scientific ideological system that is of universal importance. [applause]

We must continuously and strongly adhere to the Taean work system and manage and operate the overall social life in a political manner appropriate to the innate nature of socialism. In this way, we must more satisfactorily organize the popular masses, masters of the state and society, mobilize their revolutionary fervor and creativity, and display the superiority of the socialism of our own style.

In particular, as required by the Taean work system, we must further improve and strengthen the state's unified guidance and management on the people's economy, mobilize the country's economic potential to the utmost, and rapidly develop the economy in compliance with the popular masses' independent demand and their interests.

What is more important than anything else in enhancing the function and role of the people's regime is to implement thoroughly the tasks which Comrade Kim Chong-il gave in his letter to the participants in the recent national symposium of officials of the people's regime, a letter entitled "Let Us Display More Fully the Superiority of Our People's Regime."

In his letter, Comrade Kim Chong-il fully explained in a new way the nature of the people's regime, its superiority, its function and role, basic principles on building the people's regime, and the duty and activities of the people's regime.

Comrade Kim Chong-il's letter is a revolutionary document that has provided a milestone in strengthening our people's regime and in highly displaying its superiority. It is also a great document that has dealt a serious blow to the imperialists and reactionaries and has elucidated a way to defend the working class's work of building its regime. It has also shown a way to complete the work to the end. [applause]

The functionaries of the people's government organizations should consistently implement the revolutionary policies in the activities of the people's government—chuche, independence, self-reliance, and self-reliant national defense—and thoroughly embody the politics of independence, democracy, unity, and benevolence put forth by the great leader so that the popular masses may practically exercise the rights as masters of the government, and as those responsible for politics and carry out the responsibility and role as masters.

In enhancing the function and role of the people's government, it is important to implement the revolutionary mass line. All the activities of the people's government should start from the revolutionary mass line, and the work system and work method of the people's government should be based thoroughly on the popular masses and should be in such a way as to serve the popular masses. The functionaries of the people's government organizations should hold up the slogan "We serve the people" and go among the popular masses, work with them, share joy and sorrow with them, and establish more thoroughly the revolutionary work method and the people-oriented work style of leading the masses by setting examples and showing by practice rather than by precept.

The people's government organizations should precisely carry out the dictatorial function against the antisocialist elements. Under the circumstances where the imperialists continue antisocialist maneuvers and where the adulterated elements connected with them exist, the people's government organizations should always intensify the dictatorial function so as to prevent the counterrevolutionary, antisocialist elements from growing. They should crush in a timely manner the maneuvers that obstruct the revolution and construction, and that destroy the socialist system.

Intensifying the socialist law-abiding life is our party's consistent policy and an inevitable demand of our revolution's development. We should intensify the socialist law-abiding life so as to establish firmly the revolutionary law and order in conformity with the introduction of further organization in society and greater diversity in social life. We should prevent the bourgeois idea and revisionist idea from infiltrating from outside.

We should thoroughly establish the revolutionary law-abiding ethos in every sector of society so that all the people may regard abiding by and executing the law of the state as their sacred duty. We should voluntarily and sincerely follow law and order and the laws and regulations of the country.

The most important thing for the popular masses in adhering to and completing the cause of independence, the cause of socialism is to uphold the leader's leadership and the party's leadership with loyalty as required by the Socialist Constitution. The fate of the socialist cause depends on how we ensure the leadership of the leader and the party. The leader is the center of the sociopolitical living organism that forms the main force of the socialist cause and the supreme brain which embodies the will of the popular masses, and the party is the political organization for realizing the leader's ideology and leadership, and the only leadership force of socialist society.

The leadership of the leader and the party is the living force of the cause of independence, the cause of socialism of the popular masses, and it is the decisive guarantee for its victory. We should continue, in the future as well, to uphold the leadership of the party and the leader with loyalty and thoroughly embody it in all fields of the revolution and construction so that we may resolutely defend the popular mass-centered socialism of our own style established in this land. We should add further luster to it. [applause]

Our people are the revolutionary people who have learned from the bottom of their hearts through their practical life that only socialism can eliminate all forms of domination, subjugation, and social inequality and give the people true freedom, equality, happiness, and a rewarding life. The road to socialism is the only way to realize the independent ideals of the popular masses. Our people—who have an unshakable faith in the justness of the socialist cause and in its future. This cause is a cause which they themselves chose and have pioneered for themselves. The people will wage a more vigorous struggle along the single road of socialism under the leadership of the party without the slightest trouble in any situational change. [applause]

Ever-victorious will be the cause of our people who resolutely adhere to the popular mass-centered socialism of our own style and add luster to it under the leadership of the great leader and the great party that have led the Korean revolution along the single road of victory overcoming all sorts of stern historical trials and crises, adhering to the chuche Socialist Constitution. Ensured in the future of our people are even greater victories and progress. [applause]

Let us all make a more vigorous move forward for the victory of the socialist cause and for the completion of the chuche revolutionary cause, firmly uniting around the party Central Committee headed by the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Il-song. [applause]

Long live the great leader of our party and our people Comrade Kim Il-song! [applause] Long live the glorious Workers' Party of Korea, the organizer and guide of all victories of the Korean people! [applause]

Daily on 20th Anniversary of Kim Il-song Work

SK2512112892 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1046 GMT 25 Dec 92

["Korea's Socialist System Displays Invincible Might Under Leadership of WPK, Workers Party of Korea"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang December 25 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today dedicates a signed article to the 20th anniversary of the publication of "Let Us Further Strengthen the Socialist System of Our Country", an immortal classical work of the great leader President Kim Il-song.

In the work President Kim Il-song reviewed with high pride the historical struggle of the government of the republic for the socialist revolution and building of socialism and elaborated on the superiority of our socialist system, the main content of the new socialist constitution to be adopted and the highly important tasks in the continuous consolidation and development of our own socialism.

The two decades until now since the publication of the work, the article says, have been a period in which it has powerfully demonstrated to the world that the socialist cause of the Korean people advancing under the leadership of the great leader is invincible.

Referring to the guidance of dear Comrade Kim Chong-il who has strengthened and developed the chuche-based socialist system into an invincible one, it goes on:

The Workers' Party of Korea made a great contribution to the cause of strengthening the chuche-based socialist system, first of all, by wisely leading the efforts to attain both the ideological and material fortresses for the building of Communism.

The WPK has put forward many unique lines and policies, among them the policy of exalting the ideology. Organization and culture of the working class and educating and remoulding the farmers and the intellectuals on their model and strengthening the Communist moral education of the working people and their revolutionary organizational life and pushing ahead with the mass movement. And it set a good example in pushing ahead simultaneously with the work for solidifying the material and technical foundations of the society and remoulding people in a communistic manner.

Another exploit of the WPK in wisely leading the struggle for strengthening the chuche-based socialist system is that it has further consolidated the single-hearted unity of the entire party and the whole society.

Our party has made immeasurable efforts for the unity and cohesion of our revolutionary ranks, seeing to it that the great leader's working method was applied on an overall scale and the class line and the mass line were strictly carried through and an uncompromising struggle was waged against all hues of alien ideological trends which have nothing to do with the chuche idea.

Thanks to the energetic efforts of the WPK, the might of the driving forces of the Korean revolution has been incomparably strengthened and the whole society turned into one socio-political organism in which the entire people think and act as one.

The great exploit performed by the WPK in the consolidation and development of the chuche-based socialist system is, next, that it has wisely led the struggle for giving full play to the superiority of the socialist constitution of our country and its vitality, the article notes, adding that the classical work "On Increasing Obedience to Socialist Laws" published by our party ten years ago is of weighty significance.

The particle stresses that the Korean people confidently foresees the bright future and the final victory of the revolution in the tested guidance of our party which is consistently consolidating and developing the chuche-based socialist system founded by the great leader.

Kim Chong-il's Military Knowledge Praised

SK3012114292 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1000 GMT 23 Dec 92

[Unattributed talk: "The Dear Leader Comrade Kim Chong-il Is the Supreme Commander of Our Revolutionary Armed Forces Who Has Cultivated the Commander's Traits at the Loftiest Level"]

[Text] Nothing is more fortunate for the nation and its Armed Forces than upholding the great leader and the great commander. Our people and the People's Army are the proudest and happiest people and revolutionary Army that uphold the dear Comrade Kim Chong-il as the great leader [yongdoja] of our party and revolution and as the supreme commander of our revolutionary Armed Forces.

Our people and the People's Army are full of the great happiness, pride, pleasure, and ecstasy of upholding the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il as the supreme commander of our revolutionary Armed Forces. They are brimming over with the resolution to complete the socialist cause, the chuche revolutionary cause, to the end.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, supreme commander of our revolutionary Armed Forces, has outstanding military knowledge, striking strategy, and excellent tactics for leading the Army. He is the great commander who has led our revolutionary Armed Forces into the single road of victory and glory.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught: The leader's leading position and role should invariably be carried forward by his successor.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song pioneered and won a victory in the cause of building the chuche-oriented Army. The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, who is the great military genius and ever-victorious iron-willed commander, has led the cause of building the chuche-oriented Army. Our revolutionary Armed Forces have been further strengthened and developed into the ever-victorious and invincible ranks which can smash any strong enemy at a stroke. A bright vista is unfurled before our revolutionary Armed Forces.

Since the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il early embarked on the road of the revolution, he has cultivated extraordinary traits as the great commander and has led the cause of building the chuche- oriented Army into a victory. The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has the extraordinary military knowledge and the clairvoyant insight that no one can rival. He is the great military genius that has resolved all military issues originally and completely.

The outstanding ideological and theoretical knowledge is the most important trait that the commander should have. The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il formalized the respected and beloved leader's military theory under his revered name through energetic ideological and theoretical activities. He has gained the immortal achievements in comprehensively elucidating and systematizing the contents and form of the respected and beloved leader's military theory.

Comrade Kim Chong-il, respected and beloved supreme commander, elucidated that the contents of the great leader's military theory were consistently based not only on the ideology of self-reliance in national defense but also on the military ideology centered on the people. He also indicated that the contents of the great leader's military theory were systematically composed of the military ideology, theory, and tactics.

In particular, what is important in the dear leader comrade's original ideology of building the Army is the ideology of modeling the whole Army on the chuche idea. As the dear leader comrade put forward the policy on modeling the whole Army on the chuche idea, the general target and direction of building the Army as well as the task and method of struggle were entirely elucidated.

The basic characteristics of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il's ideology of building the Army are based on the revolutionary view of the leader. Based on the scientific analysis of the leader's absolute position and decisive role in carrying out the cause of building the Army, Comrade Kim Chong-il, respected and beloved supreme commander, regarded the working class's cause of building the Army as the leader's cause of building the Army. He regulated the revolutionary armed forces' essence and characteristics as the leader's Army. He also declared that the revolutionary Armed Forces' mission lies in carrying out the leader's cause.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il elucidated that the military tactics are created and embodied by the leader and that the leadership for building the Army is the leader's unitary leadership. Thanks to Comrade Kim Chong-il, the supreme commander of our revolutionary Armed Forces, the great leader's military theory has been further depended and developed. As a result, the working class's military theory has become the most complete military theory. The party of the working class could come to have the most powerful ideological and theoretical weapons to complete the cause of building the Army.

Judging from the scope, sphere, and degree of the military achievements which the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il's military knowledge has reached, affected, and gained, the military knowledge of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, our supreme commander, is the extraordinary and outstanding knowledge that any great military leaders in the world cannot rival.

Comrade Kim Chong-il, the respected and beloved supreme commander of our revolutionary Armed Forces, is the great commander, who has outstanding tactics for leading the Army and leads our revolutionary Armed Forces into the single road of victory and glory.

Outstanding tactics for leading the Army is the trait which the iron-willed commander, the supreme commander of the revolutionary Armed Forces, should acquire. Only the commander who acquires the outstanding tactics for leading the Army can skillfully resolve the difficult and complicated issues arising in building the Army and can successfully implement the work of building the revolutionary Armed Forces.

What is the most important content in commander's tactics for leading the Army is to put forward and carry out right struggle policy and slogans to realize the basic target of building the Army.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has put forward struggle policy and slogans, such as "Let us model the whole Army on the chuche idea," "Let us fight for the great leader with our own lives," "Train, study, and life—all in the manner of the anti-Japanese guerrillas," and others which should be firmly followed in building the Army and in conducting the military activities. By so doing, he has brought up our People's Army to be the Army for the party and the leader and to be one-a-match-for-100 revolutionary Armed Forces.

It constitutes a fundamental feature of tactics possessed by the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il to rely on strength of military masses and carry out the cause of Army building and military activities by organizing and mobilizing them. When leading revolutionary Armed Forces building and all military activities, the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il always lays stress on military masses, relies on their infinite creative strength, and solve all the problems.

What is important in uniting the soldiers and embarking on military activities by relying on their strength is to move military masses' heart with confidence and love. No matter how remarkable one's military knowledge and strategy may be, one cannot move their heart and organize and mobilize military masses to let them carry out military mission if one does not know how to trust and love the soldiers. Therefore, an outstanding leader who leads revolutionary Armed Forces should have such great human traits as can embrace military masses' heart without fail, unite them with love and confidence, and let them voluntarily fight in formidably fierce battle fields.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il personified his confidence and love for revolutionary fighters at the highest level. He also bestows his great political confidence and warm love upon them. The confidence and love of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il who regards our soldiers as the most valuable treasures, bestows priceless political revolution upon them and adds luster to it, and takes good care of them as if he were their parent, signifies the best expression of his great love for human beings, which far excels the combined love of all the parents in the world.

Such great confidence and love of the dear leader captivated and encouraged the military masses. Thus, he consummates the cause of chuche-oriented Army building. Military masses derive infinite strength and courage from the dear leader's beneficent love and confidence and are displaying unrivaled sacrifice and bravery in materializing the cause of the party's Army building.

Comrade Kim Chong-il, who is truly our revolutionary Armed Forces' supreme commander, is an iron-like brilliant general who has unparalleled outstanding tactics, has brought about revolutionary change in all the domains of military work and military activities, and has endlessly strengthened and developed our people's Armed Forces as an invincible revolutionary Armed Forces. Extraordinary military strategy and peerless courage are prominent military traits possessed by Comrade Kim Chong-il, the respected and beloved supreme commander of our revolutionary Armed Forces.

Strategy is derived from the brilliant general's creative wisdom. Courage springs from the brilliant general's will power to tackle difficulties and trials without any fear. Only when having combined strategy and courage, the brilliant general who leads tens of millions of a large Army can be ever-victorious. Fight with enemies is confrontation of military strength and at the same time, it is a confrontation of military strategy and courage of the brilliant general who leads the Army.

The brilliant general's strategy and courage is one of the most important factors in winning wars and battles. Military strategy and courage possessed by Comrade Kim Chong-il, the respected and beloved supreme commander, are prominent military traits, which he acquired in the supreme command's operation room amid the flames of war, where the cannon's roar of the fatherland liberation war reverberated, during the days when anti-Japanese gunshot had been heard, and displays their might to the world by utilizing them when he leads the cause of chuche-oriented Army building.

Comrade Kim Chong-il, the Korean People's Army supreme commander, not only drives the enemies' reckless large-scale war maneuvers into the defensive by commanding a kaleidoscopic military strategy, but also is endlessly developing and enriching chuche-oriented tactics by creating lasting tactics that fit the demands of modern warfare. Comrade Kim Chong-il, the respected and beloved supreme commander, has peerless courage, regards enemies' grave military provocation or strong enemies' threat and blackmail merely as struggling and wriggling of those who are dying, and leads the entire Army to victory easily.

Even when the U.S. imperialists provoked the Panmunjom incident in a brigandish manner and made a fuss as if they would provoke war right away, Comrade Kim Chong-il, the iron-like brilliant general, remained calm and scorned them with a broad laugh. He rather encourages functionaries to strike enemies a good blow by pledging themselves to heroic Korea if enemies make an attack upon them and thereby not to allow them to come back to life forever.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il is truly the great brilliant general who has clairvoyant, extraordinary military knowledge and strategy and unrivaled courage and outstanding tactics. The ultimate victory of our revolutionary cause rests with the fact that we uphold Comrade Kim Chong-il, the respected and beloved supreme commander of our revolutionary Armed Forces, as the Republic's marshal.

All of our People's Army generals and all the people should cherish deeply in their mind infinite happiness and glory amid which we uphold the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, a great military genius and an iron-like, ever-victorious, brilliant general, as the supreme commander of our revolutionary Armed Forces, and follow his leadership with loyalty. Thus, they should further strengthen and develop our revolutionary Armed Forces as an iron rank of certain victory and invincibility and consummate the cause of chuche- oriented revolution to the end.

Daily Praises Army's Loyalty to Kim Chong-il

SK2612064292 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0000 GMT 24 Dec 92

[NODONG SINMUN 24 December editorial: "May the Future of Our Revolutionary Armed Forces Be Brilliant With Glory!"]

[Text] Today our People's Army is in the most glorious era of its development. There was no such time in the 60-year long, proud history of our revolutionary Armed Forces as present the when might of the People's Army has been strengthened and its future is endlessly bright.

The heroic Korean People's Army [KPA] is endlessly glorifying its dignity and honor as the revolutionary Army, as the Army of the party and as the Army of the people endlessly loyal to the party and the leader. The KPA is firmly defending and protecting socialism of our own style.

Today the KPA's ever-victorious might means political and ideological might. This might is based on endless loyalty of the KPA which is firmly resolved to tenaciously fight by upholding Comrade Kim Chong-il, its supreme commander.

The historic 19th plenary meeting of the Sixth Central Committee of the Workers Party of Korea [WPK] held last year respectfully elected Comrade Kim Chong-il, member of the Political Bureau Presidium and secretary of the party Central Committee, as supreme commander of the KPA. This was indeed an epoch-making event with great significance in building our revolutionary Armed Forces and in accomplishing the chuche revolutionary cause.

Officers and men of our People's Army and all people accepted this great national happy event with deep emotion and joy and resolved to staunchly defend, protect and accomplish to the end the chuche revolutionary cause by following the leadership of comrade supreme commander, and to smash any challenge of the enemy.

The election of Comrade Kim Chong-il as supreme commander of the KPA was brilliant achievement of unanimous desire of all officers and men of the People's Army and our people.

Comrade Kim Chong-il embodied the respected leader's chuche-based military ideas from a long time ago, and wisely led the struggle to firmly organize the People's Army politically, ideologically, militarily and technologically. Putting forward the policy on chuche-orientation of the entire Army, Comrade Kim Chong-il made immortal achievements in building our revolutionary armed forces in the midst of struggle to lead the cause of Army building. Thus, he came to enjoy boundless respects and trust from all officers and men of the People's Army and people.

By upholding Comrade Kim Chong-il as supreme commander of the KPA, our revolutionary Armed Forces are advancing by following the leadership of the party and the leader. Thus, the future of our revolutionary armed forces is illuminating with greater victory and glory.

Cherishing a great honor in upholding Comrade Kim Chong-il as supreme commander of the KPA and the pledge made before the party deep in their hearts, officers and men of our People's Army are tenaciously fighting along the road indicated by the party and the leader.

All officers and men of the People's Army are overflowing with boundless pride in serving as warriors of comrade supreme commander. They are firmly determined to fight by dedicating even their whole lives to defending and protecting the party, the leader, the nation and the people.

The entire Army is filled with ideas and intention of comrade supreme commander. Besides, the unity between officers and men, the unity between the military and civilians and the unity between party members and members of the League of Socialist Working Youth of Korea [LSWYK] have been brilliantly achieved. For this, our People's Army is demonstrating its pride as invincible revolutionary ranks who are firmly rallied behind comrade supreme commander.

Comrade Kim Chong-il, member of the Political Bureau Presidium and secretary of the WPK Central Committee, has indicated: It is the greatest honor and pride for our party to have the People's Army which staunchly defends and protects the party and the leader and which accomplishes to the end the party's order and directives by going through fire and water.

On the road of upholding comrade supreme commander, our People's Army has been firmly prepared to be revolutionary armed forces which tenaciously defend and protect the party and the leader by cherishing loyalty and filial piety.

The revolutionary faith is the life for the revolutionary Army. The revolutionary Army has to overcome arduous trials and to wage decisive battles against the enemy. Therefore, only when it has strong faith to trust and follow the party and the leader, can it smash any strong imperialist enemy and tenaciously defend and protect the party and the leader under any difficult circumstance.

Today our People's Army is filled with revolutionary faith to share its destiny with comrade supreme commander to the end. It is firm, iron-clad faith of soldiers of our People's Army to fight by dedicating their lives to the respected comrade supreme commander, just as heroes Kim Chin and Yi Su-pok who blocked the enemy's fire with their passionate hearts. This is an expression of their spotless, clean, and pure will to respectfully uphold and follow Comrade Kim Chong-il, the supreme commander, by entrusting him with their whole destinies to the end. This is a death-defying determination to fulfill their pledge made before their leader and party and not to yield to any violent storm.

Because our People's Army is filled with such faith, it has produced a great number of well-known and unheralded heroic fighters who touched all the people.

The revolutionary military discipline is the source of combat power of the revolutionary Army. The Army which established revolutionary discipline under which it acts unanimously according to the monolithic leadership of its leader and its supreme commander is to be ever-victorious every step by overcoming all difficulties.

The iron-clad discipline, order, and orderly system, under which our People's Army acts as one according to the order and directives of comrade supreme commander, have been established within our People's Army.

No one has the right to violate the order and directives of comrade supreme commander. One is given only the right to execute them. This is iron-clad faith of officers and men of our People's Army.

Today officers and men of the People's Army are carrying out the order and directives of comrade supreme commander timely, thoroughly and unconditionally by going through fire and water. They are registering heroic feats and miracles in the course of carrying out their military missions.

The revolutionary military discipline, established in our Army, is an iron-clad discipline and order based on ardent loyalty and lofty political consciousness of all officers and men who resolved to loyally uphold comrade supreme commander by deeply trusting him. This discipline is the spirit of absoluteness and unconditionality to execute unswervingly the order and directives of comrade supreme commander without fail at any time and under any circumstance. Because such revolutionary military discipline is established, our People's Army is strong, and no enemy can dare provoke it.

Unity is a decisive factor affecting existence, and victory and defeat of the revolutionary Army. For the revolutionary Army to always win victory in fight against the enemy, it should achieve the single-hearted unity and cohesion of entire Army with its leader and its supreme commander. The unity of a revolutionary Army is to be ensured by lofty loyalty of soldiers and their ideological consistency.

Today in our People's Army, the unity between officers and men and the unity between party members and LSWYK members are being brilliantly achieved. On the road of upholding comrade supreme commander, commanders and soldiers love each other and share their destinies in firm unity as the same revolutionary warriors.

While always living with soldiers, commanders of the People's Army spare and love the soldiers just as their own offspring and soldiers respect and follow their commanders.

Party members actively support and lead the LSWYK members, and become a model of the LSWYK members in military life. The LSWYK members are excellently carrying out the military missions assigned by the party as the young vanguard by following the model of party members.

Because the fine custom of unity between officers and men and unity between party members and LSWYK members is highly displayed, a lofty sense of sacrifice to dedicate one's own life to saving one's comrades, as well as comradely love, have been bloomed in our People's Army.

For this, our People's Army becomes a great united body of ideology and will in which commanders, soldiers, party members, and LSWYK members share life and death and happiness and suffering, firmed united in comradeship and sense of duty based on their loyalty to the leader.

Also our People's Army is firmly preparing itself with military and technological ability to smash all enemies, no matter how strong they are, to uphold the comrade supreme commander.

Our revolutionary Armed Forces have experienced all kinds difficulties and hardships while victoriously advancing by overcoming severe trials on the road of the revolution for 60 years. They have grown up to be an iron-strong rank with abundant experience of guerrilla warfare and modern wars.

Our People's Army's combat ability is being strengthened in all quarters by arming itself with military and scientific technologies and ultramodern military technological equipment in accordance with the demand of modern war, with the specific realities of our country.

All officers and soldiers of our People's Army have high technological and cultural level through education in our party's bosom.

This not only highly displays the political and ideological trait of our People's Army but also enables it to be strengthened and developed to become an one-a-match-for-100 Army whose soldiers have ability in modern weapons and technological combat equipment.

On the way of upholding the comrade supreme commander, our party's idea on unity between the Army and the people is brilliantly being embodied, and blood relations between the Army and the people are being strengthened more firmly, as well.

Our party's idea on unity between the Army and the people is a chuche-oriented Army building idea that the revolutionary Army should firmly rely on the people while the people support and actively help the Army so as to strengthen the revolutionary Armed Forces in all quarters, to smash the imperialist military forces of aggression with the united strength of the Army and the people.

This idea, whose justness and vitality has been clearly proved through the two revolutionary wars, reflects the demand of the realities of our developing revolution and the invariable desire and aspiration of all People's Army officers and soldiers and the people.

Our party's idea on unity between the Army and the people is brilliantly embodied in practices of our revolution and creates the proud realities in which the Army and the people are stoutly advancing firmly united with each other, under the wise leadership of the comrade supreme commander.

The unity between the Army and the people became a lofty tradition of our society.

Our People's Army officers and soldiers love the people, protect their lives and property, and devotedly struggle for the sake of the people's interest, whenever and wherever they are.

It is a common knowledge among our people that our People's Army officers and soldiers save people in danger even by sacrificing their valuable lives and help with wholehearted efforts people working.

Our people love the People's Army like their own family members and actively support and encourage them both materially and spiritually.

There has been no such age as ours in which the beautiful custom of unity between the Army and soldier are advanced to be a trait of the whole society and in which blood relations between the Army and the people have firmly been strengthened.

Therefore, single-minded unity between the party, the Army, and the people around the great leader [yongdoja] has been strengthened today, and the cause of socialism of our own style is vigorously being pushed ahead thanks to the might of these main forces of the revolution.

By upholding KPA Supreme Commander Comrade Kim Chong-il, not only the People's Army but the overall might of our revolutionary Armed Forces, including the Red Worker-Peasant Militia and the Red Youth Guards, is being strengthened, and the whole country is being changed to be an impregnable fortress.

The trait of valuing the military, of sincerely learning the military affairs is overflowing in the entire society.

Today, the People's Army have excellent looks as the Army of revolution, the party, and the people while advancing under the leadership of the Supreme Commander Comrade Kim Chong-il.

The KPA has been firmly prepared to be one-a-match-for-one hundred revolutionary Armed Forces capable of supporting the party's cause with arms in terms of loyalty to the party and the leader, organization, discipline, and military technology.

The heroic KPA which is endlessly loyal to comrade supreme commander gives all the people great pride and self-respect and fosters in them the faith in sure victory and revolutionary optimism that they can fulfill the chuche socialist cause following the leadership of the party and the leader. The might of our People's Army is the might of our party, and it is the source of the strength of the socialism of our own style. Our party is now leading the chuche revolutionary cause victoriously, resolutely crushing any challenge of the enemy because it has the loyal People's Army. The socialism of our own style is winning victory after victory because our Army is strong. The People's Army is our party's dependable revolutionary armed forces and the strong fortress of the socialism of our own style. Today, our People's Army is continuously being strengthened and developed as one-a-match-for-a-hundred revolutionary armed forces entirely because it has the wise leadership of comrade supreme commander.

The revolutionary Army is founded by the leader and is strengthened and developed under the leadership of the party and the leader. Apart from the leader's leadership, the existence of the revolutionary Army and its activities are unthinkable. The historical experience shows that unless the revolutionary Army has a great leader [widaehan yongdoja] leading it at its head, it not only cannot adhere to its revolutionary nature but it is destined to lose vigor and collapse, no matter what modern military technology and huge armed forces it may have.

KPA Supreme Commander Comrade Kim Chong-il is a great leader [widaehan yongdoja] who leads our revolutionary Armed Forces to victory and glory. All the problems arising in Army building and Army activities—from the work of intensifying the political and ideological indoctrination for the People's Army to the work of ensuring unity between officers and men, unity between the Army and the people, and the unity between the party members and the LSWYK members, the work of completing the chuche warfare, and the work of modernizing arms and military equipment—are being realized brilliantly under the wise leadership of the comrade supreme commander. Therefore, the officers and men of our Peope's Army feel the greatness of the comrade supreme commander deep in their hearts through their practical experience and are upholding him loyally with faith and fidelity.

The reality shows that the revolutionary Army can have invincible might and become proud and glorious revolutionary armed forces dependably defending the fatherland, the revolution, and the socialist cause when it has a military genius, an ever-victorious, iron-willed brilliant commander.

Today we have a heavy but honorable task to defend, adhere to, and add more luster to the socialism of our own style centered on popular masses. The imperialists and the enemies of the revolution are intensifying the spearhead of offensive at our country which is following the banner of socialism, while continuously intensifying the maneuvers to provoke a war of aggression. The reality demands that we more firmly solidify the might of our People's Army politically, ideologically, and in terms of military technology.

Comrade Kim Chong-il, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau and secretary of the WPK Central Committee, has noted: Our People's Army, which has continuously been strengthened and developed under the leadership of the party, has entered into a new road of self-development. We should further strengthen the People's Army in conformity with the prevailing situation so that the People's Army may excellently carry out its mission and duty as the party's revolutionary Armed Forces and as the defender of the country and the nation.

The People's Army is the defender of the socialist cause and the dependable defender of the country and the nation. The rise and fall of a country and a nation depends upon how its Army is prepared. If the country and the nation has a strong Army, it can defend its dignity and honor as an independent and sovereign state and successfully carry out building socialism; otherwise, it cannot escape the fate of losing the country.

Today, our party is successfully building the socialism of our own style firmly believing the People's Army and without perturbation even in the complicated and difficult environment. The KPA should add luster to its honor and dignity as the Army of the revolution, the Army of the party, and the Army of the people upholding the comrade supreme commander, with deep awareness of its noble sense of historical mission before the times, the revolution, the party, and the leader, and by further strengthening its combat strength.

The most important thing in strengthening our People's Army is to firmly prepare all of its officers and men to be genuine revolutionaries endlessly loyal to the party and the leader. The loyalty to the party and the leader is the requisite of foremost importance to our Army. As the People's Army is the rank with guns, it should have a higher loyalty to the party and the leader than any other rank. The loyalty of our People's Army which upholds comrade supreme commander today is extraordinarily higher than ever. We should intensify the political and ideological indoctrination, as well as the loyalty indoctrination, in order to exalt higher their revolutionary zeal to be loyal to the party and the leader so that they may make their loyalty their faith, conscience, morality, and life.

All the officers and men of the People's Army should deeply cherish the great pride and self-respect in upholding the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il as their supreme commander, fulfill their duty as the party's revolutionary fighters, and defend their leader, their party, their system, and their fatherland at the cost of their lives. All the soldiers should hold up the slogan of imbuing the entire Army with the chuche idea, establish the revolutionary military life ethos of absolutely and thoroughly implementing comrade supreme commander's idea, intent, orders, and directives. By highly exalting the virtue of the unity between officers and men and the unity between the party members and the LSWYK members, they should strengthen the ideological and volitional unity and cohesion of the entire Army.

The fundamental characteristic of the People's Army lies in its political and ideological superiority, and it is thoroughly demonstrated when it is supported by military technology. We should intensify the military training among the soldiers for the completion of the chuche warfare and prepare them firmly in terms of military technology. Under conditions in which the U.S. imperialists and their stooges are in South Korea and their maneuvers for provoking a war of aggression continue, the People's Army should hold the guns and bayonets of the revolution more firmly. The soldiers who devote themselves, thinking day and night of how to best prepare themselves for combat, are the loyal fighters who truly uphold the comrade supreme commander.

The officers and men of the People's Army should always maintain high revolutionary vigilance against the imperialists not only in the period of stern class struggle but at the time when no gunshots are heard as well. They should always maintain the posture of alertness and mobilization.

More thoroughly embodying our party's idea of unity between the Army and the people is an important matter in strengthening the People's Army and accelerating socialist construction. The People's Army cannot strengthen its combat capability without its ties of kinship with the people and without the people's support and encouragement, and the people cannot successfully accelerate socialist construction without the People's Army. In our country today, the virtue of unity between the Army and the people is in full bloom, and the unity between the Army and the people is firmly solidified. The unity between our Army and the people is the noble unity based on one aspiration and will to uphold comrade supreme commander. It is the firmest unity in which the Army and the people are resolved to overcome any stern trials and difficulties together, sharing life and death and destiny.

We should more highly exalt the traditional virtue of unity between the Army and the people so as to more firmly solidify the unity between the Army and the people with the comrade supreme commander in its center. When the People's Army loves and respects the people as if they were its own flesh and blood while the people love the Army and actively support and encourage it both materially and morally, the unity and cohesion among the party, the Army, and the people is strengthened, and our party's cause will bring victory after victory by this might.

The officers and men of the heroic KPA is the loyal revolutionary fighters of the comrade supreme commander. The KPA enjoys boundless trust of all the people because of its endless loyalty to the party and the revolutionary cause, its devoted spirit of serving the fatherland and the people, and its achievements for the socialist cause. No force can ever block the advance of this mighty, invincible rank. There will only be victory and glory in the future of the heroic KPA which wages a vigorous struggle with wholehearted unity around the comrade supreme commander.

Light Industry Officials, Workers Support Army

SK2612111192 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1035 GMT 26 Dec 92

[Text] Pyongyang December 26 (KCNA)—Officials and workers of the light industrial domain are giving a big help to the People's Army with deep love.

They acquainted themselves with the conditions of several units of the People's Army and life of their soldiers early this year and, on this basis, solved problems facing them.

They improved the water-supply networks more rationally and laid cableways at nearly 20 spots for soldiers on hills and repaired or built more than 600 barracks and houses for 1,300 families for servicemen.

They supplied steel, cement, timber, electric motors, transformers, water pumps and other materials and equipment. As a result the construction of 365 planned objects has been completed to provide the servicemen with more comfortable and cultural living conditions.

The source of the strength of the Korean People's Army lies in the support and encouragement of the people.

Kim Chong-il Extends Thanks to Working People

SK2612102692 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1006 GMT 26 Dec 92

[Text] Pyongyang December 26 (KCNA)—The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il extended thanks to officials who took part in the writing, editing and publication of a medical encyclopaedia.

Some 800 medical scientists in different parts of the country have over the past 18 years brought out medical encyclopaedias of six domains consisting of 60 volumes such as "Complete Book of Internal Medicine," "Complete Book of Surgery," "Complete Book of Paediatrics" and "Complete Book of Epidemic Prevention" by devoting all their knowledge and passion.

Comrade Kim Chong-il also extended thanks to the officials and lecturers of the party founding history museum who, upholding the party's intention to develop and carry forward the revolutionary traditions of chuche, went among disabled soldiers' factories and nearly 60,000 people of broad strata in Pyongyang and other areas of the country and conducted brisk explanation and propaganda about the historical materials of the great leader President Kim Il-song associated with the historical site of the party founding and his immortal revolutionary exploits.

Kim Chong-il Sends Gift to Japanese Woman

SK2612052492 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0454 GMT 26 Dec 92

[Text] Pyongyang December 26 (KCNA)—The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il sent a benevolent 70th birthday table to a Japanese woman, O Yang-sun (Namiko Komiyama), living in neighbourhood unit, No. 73, Hasin-tong, Sosong District, Pyongyang Municipality.

O Yang-sun was born the youngest daughter into a peasant's family in Nakagoma County, Yamanashi Prefecture, Japan, and when she was 21 years old she made the acquaintance of a Korean young man who was working his way through school in Japan and followed him to Korea before its liberation.

After the liberation she has led a happy life under the wise guidance of the great leader President Kim Il-song and the constant popular policies of the Workers' Party of Korea.

The Workers' Party of Korea saw to it that her children were brought up at a baby farm and a school and provided them with an ample opportunity of learning and bestowed loving care and solicitudes upon them many a time.

Having keenly felt through the experience of her life that our socialist system is, indeed, a benevolent bosom in which eternal happiness is guaranteed, she sent to Comrade Kim Chong-il a letter recalling her career in early September.

After reading her letter, Comrade Kim Chong-il called her a good mother and told officials to look after her life with utmost care.

Deeply moved by the birthday table, O Yang-sun said:

"The bosom of the great leader President Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il who showed the great loving care and solicitudes for me who is like a grain of sand in the sea is the benevolent bosom to which all people entrust their destinies without hesitation.

I and my children will remain always faithful to him, entrusting our destiny to this bosom of affection.

Thank you, the great leader and the dear leader."

Leaders' Meeting Marks Kim Chong-suk's Birthday

SK2612032292 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2100 GMT 24 Dec 92

[Text] A central report meeting was held marking the 75th birth of Comrade Kim Chong-suk, indomitable revolutionary fighter, at the Hall of the People's Culture on 23 December.

Placed in front of the meeting place was the portrait of Comrade Kim Il-song, the great leader of our party and people. Also displayed in the meeting place was the red flag which the revolutionaries, who had been infinitely loyal to the party and the leader, always held up along the single road of the revolution. Seen in the meeting place was the picture of Mt. Paektu which symbolizes our party's brilliant revolutionary tradition. Seen in the meeting place was a writing reading 1917-1992 that means the 75th birth of Comrade Kim Chong-suk, indomitable communist revolutionary fighter. Put up in the meeting place were the slogans reading "Love live the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song" and "Long live the glorious Workers Party of Korea [WPK]." Seen in the meeting place were the slogans reading "Let us be an honor guard unit and a do-or-die unit unfailingly loyal to the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and the glorious party" and "Let us carry forward and achieve the chuche revolutionary cause generation after generation."

Present at the report meeting were functionaries of the party, government organizations, administrative and economic organizations, social organizations, and other central organizations; anti-Japanese revolutionary fighters; the bereaved family members of the revolutionary martyrs; functionaries of institutions of science, education, cultural and art, public health, and the press and publications; soldiers of the Korean People's Army [KPA]; and working people of Pyongyang. Also present there were various overseas compatriots' delegations staying in the socialist fatherland and members of other visiting groups.

Comrade Yi Chong-ok, member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and vice president; Comrade Kim Yong-nam, member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee, vice premier of the Administration Council, and minister of foreign affairs; Comrade Choe Kwang, member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and chief of the KPA General Staff; Comrade Kye Ung-tae and Comrade Chon Pyong-ho, members of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and secretaries of the party Central Committee; Comrade Choe Tae-pok, alternate member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the party Central Committee; Comrade Hong Song-nam and Comrade Kang Hui-won, alternate members of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and vice premiers of the Administration Council; Comrade Kim Kuk-tae, Comrade Kim Chung-nin, Comrade Yun Ki-pok, Comrade So Kwan-hui, and Comrade Hwang Chang-yop, secretaries of the WPK Central Committee; Comrade Kim Pok-sin and Comrade Chang Chol, vice premiers of the Administration Council; Comrade Yang Hyong-sop, chairman of the Supreme People's Committee; Comrade Chon Mun-sop, chairman of the State Inspection Committee; Chong Sin-hyok, chairman of the Chondoist Chongu Party Central Committee; fighters of the anti-Japanese revolutionary fighters; responsible functionaries of the working people's organizations; and other functionaries concerned mounted the platform.

The report meeting began with the playing of the national anthem. At the report meeting, Comrade Choe Tae-pok, alternate member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the party Central Committee, gave his report.

The participants recollected the brilliant life of the indomitable revolutionary fighter Comrade Kim Chong-suk. The report meeting took place amid the participants' revolutionary enthusiasm to firmly establish the revolutionary view of the leader, further strengthen the single-hearted unity of our revolutionary ranks, indefatigably fight on to complete the chuche revolutionary cause and the socialist cause by learning from her noble loyalty to the party and the revolutionary cause.

Christians in North Celebrate Christmas

SK2612110792 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1032 GMT 26 Dec 92

[Text] Pyongyang December 26 (KCNA)—Christians in Korea greeted the Christmas Day.

A prayer meeting took place Thursday at the Changchung Cathedral here with the attendance of Chang Chae-chol, chairman of the Central Committee of the Korean Roman Catholics Association, Roman Catholics in the city and those from overseas visiting the socialist homeland and foreigners staying in Korea.

Head of the Changchung Cathedral, Cha Song-kun, in a special lecture on the subject "Let Us Accelerate National Reunification by Faithfully Implementing the North-South Agreement," expressed the strong hope that the Roman Catholics who regard love, reconciliation and peace as their basic ideal would become rays and salt [as received] in the struggle for accomplishing the sacred cause of national reunification by the internal force of the nation.

He called upon the world Catholic community to extend firm solidarity and active support to the Korean people in their struggle to get the decision to renew the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises scrapped and the U.S.

forces and nuclear weapons withdrawn from South Korea and accelerate national reunification through an early implementation of the North-South agreement.

Divine services took place at the Pongsu and Chilgol churches here Friday.

PRC Energy Delegation Arrives 25 Dec

SK2512121092 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1106 GMT 25 Dec 92

[Text] Pyongyang December 25 (KCNA)—A delegation of the Chinese side led by Vice-minister of Energy Lu Youmei arrived here today to attend the 45th meeting of the council of the Korea-China Hydraulic Power Co.

Meets With Vice Premier

SK2612120792 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1104 GMT 26 Dec 92

[Text] Pyongyang December 26 (KCNA)—Vice-Premier Hong Song-nam met and had a friendly talk with the delegation of the Chinese side led by Vice-Minister of Energy Lu Youmei which is staying in Korea to attend the 45th meeting of the council of the Korea-China Hydraulic Power Co. at the Mansudae Assembly Hall today.

Present there were Han Kuk-song, first vice-chairman of the State Commission of Power Industry, and Zheng Yi, Chinese ambassador to Korea.

Choe Tae-pok Meets PRC Recreation Delegation

SK2512121992 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1104 GMT 25 Dec 92

[Text] Pyongyang December 25 (KCNA)—Choe Tae-pok, alternate member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, today met and had a friendly talk with the recreation group of officials of the Communist Party of China led by Sha Jiansun, deputy director of the party history research centre of the CPC Central Committee.

Referring to the great achievements made by the Korean people in socialist construction under the wise guidance of the great leader President Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, the head of the group said that his group was deeply impressed by the looks of Pyongyang which has been built splendidly in a short period from the ruins to which it had been reduced in the past war.

He wished the Korean people greater success in socialist construction.

Plan on Sports Exchange Adopted

SK2512121292 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1105 GMT 25 Dec 92

[Text] Pyongyang December 25 (KCNA)—A 1993 plan on sports exchange between State Sports Commissions of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the People's Republic of China was signed here today.

The plan was signed by Hwang Pong-yong, vice-chairman of the state Commission of Physical Culture and Sports of Korea, and by Liu Ji, vice-minister of the State Physical Culture and Sports Commission.

Li Peng, Vo Van Kiet Congratulate Kang Song-san

SK2612103492 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1008 GMT 26 Dec 92

[Text] Pyongyang December 26 (KCNA)—Messages of greetings came to Kang Song-san upon his election as premier of the Administration Council of the DPRK from Li Peng, premier of the State Council of China, Vo Van Kiet, chairman of the Council of Ministers of Vietnam, P. Jasray, prime minister of the State of Mongolia, and Belaid Abdesselam, chairman of the Council of Ministers of Algeria.

The messages express the belief that the friendly and cooperative relations between the governments and peoples of their countries and Korea will grow stronger and develop in the future and wish Premier Kang Song-san success in his responsible work.

Daily on Japan's 'Plunder' of Southeast Asia

SK2612051592 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1529 GMT 25 Dec 92

["Japanese Imperialists' Looting in Southeast Asian Countries"]

[Text] Pyongyang December 25 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today carries an article by Prof. and Dr. Yi Kun-hwan exposing the fact that the Japanese imperialists freely carried away a fabulous amount of resources from Southeast Asian countries when they were occupying them in the past.

At "a military and government top-level meeting of Japan" held in February 1942 the then Prime Minister Tojo got the basic policy of southern invasion adopted, the policy defining Manchuria, China and the Southwest Pacific as "Japan's sphere of resources" and Australia and India as its "sphere of supply" and set the quantities of resources to be requisitioned in those countries in 15 years to come, the article says, and continues:

The main strategic materials looted by the Japanese imperialists in the occupied colonies from 1939 to 1945 included 46,500,000 tons of coal, 18,700,000 tons of oil and processed oil, 4,900,000 tons of steel and 11 million tons of grain. As for rice, they commandeered 21,250,000 som (a som equals to 4.9629 bushels) in Indonesia, 6,630,000 som in Thailand and 6,040,000 som in Malaysia and consumed part of them as local military provisions and carried the rest to Japan proper in the 1941-1944 period.

The Japanese imperialists harshly despoiled the occupied areas of resources in a very crafty way by using the lever of currency.

In the "program of economic measures in the South" made public on December 12, 1941, they decided on the issue of war notes and set afloat invalid war notes at the same value with the local currencies to depreciate the value of the currencies and cause a serious inflation in Southeast Asian nations.

As a result, the money supply increased 3.3 times in Indonesia and 20-36 times in the Philippines. By issuing such a large amount of war notes and paper currencues, the Japanese imperialists got their hands on most of the local manpower and material resources virtually free.

The case was the same with Malaysia and Singapore.

At a top-class meeting held on October 7, 1941, Japanese Minister of Finance Okinori Kaya said: "In case we occupy the southern operational zone, we cannot but employ a means of exploitation without taking into account the local people's living". His utterances are enough to show the harsh exploitation and plunder of the Southeast Asian peoples by the Japanese imperialists.

Owing to their harsh predatory policy in colonies, about two million people died of hunger in the Southeast Asian region in 1944 and 1945, the article says, and adds:

The misery of the people in those days was much worse than their life under the colonial domination of the European and American imperialists.

However, Japan has been very insincere in admitting and repenting of the crimes committed by it in the past. The Japanese Government authorities are now seeking overseas expansion. Southeast Asian nations are included in its objects. The history of exploitation and plunder by Japanese imperialism must not be repeated.

Economic Accord Signed With Bangladesh

SK2612114792 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1102 GMT 26 Dec 92

[Text] Pyongyang December 26 (KCNA)—An agreement on economic cooperation between Korean and Bangladesh Governments was signed here today.

It was signed by Yi Song-tae, chairman of the State External Economic Affairs Commission, and Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources of Bangladesh Khondaker Mosharraf Hossain.

Kim Yong-sun Returns From European Trip

SK2512121392 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1101 GMT 25 Dec 92

[Text] Pyongyang December 25 (KCNA)—A delegation of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] led by Kim Yong-sun, alternate member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the C.C. [Central Committee], the WPK, returned home today after visiting Italy and Austria.

It was met at the airport by vice-director of a department of the C.C., the WPK Kwon Min-chun.

South Korea

Resolving Regional Hatred 'Important Task'

SK3012054992 Seoul YONHAP in English 0224 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 30 (YONHAP)—President No Tae-u said Wednesday that the next government's most important task would be to resolve regional hatred, and the entire nation should help in this endeavor.

The December presidential election was "the fairest, most orderly election in the history of presidential elections," No said in an interview with the mass circulation TONG-A ILBO newspaper, according to No's aides.

His five years as president had yielded steady progress toward national unification and in South-North dialogue, No said.

"If inter-Korean dialogue makes progress at the same speed as in my tenure, then our judgment that Korea can realize unification this century won't be too optimistic," he said.

Asked his advice for president-elect Kim Yong-sam, No said it would be economic development and unification of the entire nation.

Former President Chon Tu-hwan's rule would be judged by history and there was neither separation nor conflict with his administration, No said.

"I can meet him at any time for national development."

President's Staff Prepares To Leave Chongwadae

SK3012033092 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 30 Dec 92 p 2

[By staff reporter Kim Song-pok]

[Text] President No Tae-u and the Chongwadae [presidential offices] staff are preparing for their departure.

No, with the end of his five-year term now less than two months away, has made visits to armed forces units, hosted a year-end party for key officials at vice minister-level or above, met various social organizations and had lunch with the alumni of his alma mater, Kyongpuk High School.

During his visit to the military units on Dec. 22, he did not forget to urge the military to remain loyal to the next president Kim Yong-sam who has no link to the military establishment.

He also presided over the eighth and last conference to assess his economic policies Monday.

His activities are taken as a farewell.

On top of this, he reportedly is preparing to seek reconciliation with his immediate predecessor Chon Tu-hwan, releasing nine [of] Chon's relatives on special parole from jails or reinstating them on the occasion of the Christmas holiday.

No plans to visit his old friend Chon after stepping down on Feb. 25.

Chon and Chon's relatives were sent to a remote Buddhist temple and prison, respectively, on moral and criminal charges.

Meanwhile, most presidential staff members, if not all, appear restless, thinking that they will be left with no jobs when the new staff for Kim Yong-sam replaces them.

Of some 200 Chongwadae staffers, the better half have already returned or plan to return to the ministries they were dispatched from. But lots of special appointees have found no openings in the officialdom or elsewhere.

Senior presidential secretaries are in a better situation than lower-level staff.

A senior secretary for No has revealed that he has been invited by a university to teach.

Another one with a Ph.D in politics said that he will write books and take a rest for a while and then find a new job.

A vice minister-level staff said, "I am determined to leave Chongwadae with President No."

However, a section chief-level official handling political affairs in his early 30s said, "I don't know if I will remain here or be replaced. I've as yet found no new job."

The reports that Kim Yong-sam will replace almost the whole current presidential staff when he takes office are making them jittery.

When No was sworn in five years ago, he replaced only the senior and key presidential aides, keeping the remaining stay [as published] at his side.

Amid the jitters, the Chongwadae staff are busy preparing to hand over power to President-elect Kim's transition team which will be formed today.

The aides for economic, foreign affairs and national security are preparing essential papers to hand them over to the transition team, while the aides for political and inspection affairs are reportedly shredding classified documents.

A task force will be formed at Chongwadae under No's instructions to cooperate with Kim's transition team. The task force is headed by Presidential Secretary General Chong Hae-chang.

A Chongwadae official has said, "I expect the transition team for President-elect Kim to ask for papers and explanations concerning key affairs and we are preparing them."

Despite the inauguration of the new president, the presidential security service members are not likely to be replaced on technical matters.

However, they are also paying keen attention to the report that the presidential security service may be degraded and put under the command of the presidential secretary general.

The office of the presidential bodyguard had been regarded as a bastion of power until the previous Fifth Republic.

No Tells Cabinet To Wrap Up All Pending Tasks

SK3012063092 Seoul YONHAP in English 0233 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 30 (YONHAP)—President No Tae-u told the cabinet Wednesday to wrap up all pending tasks so the next administration was not burdened by them.

No told the year's last cabinet meeting that his five-year term should end fruitfully.

The government should exert all its efforts to help smooth the transition in February, solving all post-election problems prior to the inauguration, he said.

No ordered the cabinet to cooperate with and support President-elect Kim Yong-sam's transition team.

Election law violators should be dealt with in a fair manner to create a sound election culture take root and to restore social discipline and order.

Problems with the system uncovered during the presidential election should guide amendments in the future, No said.

The government was required to develop and strengthen policies to sharpen international competitivity, he said. And the government should not postpone or neglect working out strategies to cope with issues such as the Uruguay Round trade talks.

No told the cabinet to prevent disturbance in officialdom or an administrative vacuum during the power transfer by assuring career bureaucrats that the change of presidents wouldn't affect their status.

Kim Yong-sam Names 15 to Transition Team

SK3012010092 Seoul YONHAP in English 0034 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 30 (YONHAP)—President-elect Kim Yong-sam named a 15-member transition team led by former Prime Minister Chong Won-sik on Wednesday.

The 14 others are Chang Yong-chol, Choe Byong-yol, Kim Han-kyu, Nam Che-hui, Pak Kwan-yong, Yi Min-sop, Yi Hwan-ui, So Chong-hwa, Sin Kyong-sik, Yang Chang-sik, Ryu Kung-hui, Yi Che-hwan, Choe Chang-yun and Yi He-ku.

Sin Kyong-sik was named the spokesman.

The committee will begin operation Jan. 4 and prepare for the transition of governmental businesses from the administration of outgoing President No Tae-u in time for the inauguration Feb. 25.

Transition Team Analyzed

SK3012072492 Seoul YONHAP in English 0634 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 30 (YONHAP)—President-elect Kim Yong-sam dipped his hand into the much-touted bag of new-style personnel management Wednesday, but pulled out familiar old faces for his 15-member transition team.

Kim must have given generous political consideration to his first major appointments, because most of them are political heavyweights who did not figure in the minds of many observers and pundits when Kim said he wanted to form a team of working-level officials.

To put it another way, Kim seems to regard the transitional task as a process of assuming "presidential power" rather than as preparation for a smooth transfer of technical and administrative functions.

Nevertheless, the chairman of the transition committee, Chong Won-sik, a former prime minister and Kim's campaign manager, said the team hopes to coordinate closely with President No Tae-u's administration to carry out transitional tasks and to avoid an administrative vacuum.

The team will be divided into subcommittees by field, and when it starts operations Jan. 4 it will not preoccupy itself with the new administration's policy but lay a foundation to realize the party's platform and Kim's campaign pledges, Chong said.

Based on this idea, the transition team will work to retain certain policies of the outgoing administration while abandoning others, Chong said.

Looking at each member, it becomes apparent that the committee does include experts or specialists in their fields, but Kim has obviously tried to achieve a balance of National Assemblymen and non-lawmakers and of regions.

There were also traces of a political payoff for those who worked hard for Kim's election.

Rep. Choe Pyong-yol, who has served as senior presidential secretary for political affairs, and held the information and labor portfolios, could be the right choice for transitional work in the political arena.

Choe Chang-yun, secretary for the party's president, could also be a good pick since he has served as presidential secretary for political affairs and information minister.

Yi Hae-ku, a former deputy director of the Agency for National Security Planning, Rep. Chang Yong-chol, a former labor minister, and Rep. Yi Chae-hwan, a former sports and youth minister, all are officials of some administrative experience.

Rep. So Chong-hwa, a graduate of Korea Military Academy, is chairman of the National Assembly Construction Committee while Rep. Yi Min-sop is chairman of the Education, Sports and Youth Committee. Rep. Yang Chang-sik has a military background, whereas Rep. Pak Kwan-yong is chairman of the assembly's Special Committee on National Unification.

Former Rep. Yu Kyong-hyon had experience chairing the Economic and Science Committee, Rep. Kim Han-kyu is a specialist on social welfare and Rep. Yi Hwan-ui, who was once president of Munhwa Broadcasting Co. (MBC), has expertise in the educational field.

But if one scratches the surface of their backgrounds, the political color is clear. They are Kim's "new guard."

Kim, who used to say "personnel management is everything," included three officials from the Cholla Provinces—Yang Chang-sik, Yi Hwan-ui and Yu Kyong-hyon.

Yi Chae-hwan stands out as the sole independent National Assemblyman named to the team.

Kim chose Reps. Yi Hae-ku and So Chong-hwa from Kyonggi Province, Rep. Yi Min-sop from Kangwon Province, and Reps. Kim Han-kyu and Chang Yong-chol from North Kyongsang Province to balance regional representation. Kim and Chang worked hard for Kim Yong-sam's election.

Former Rep. Nam Chae-hui has been a valuable member of the DLP [Democratic Liberal Party] from the day Kim won the party's nomination for president and Rep. Sin Kyong-sik, the team's spokesman, helped him during difficult times in the party.

All in all, analysts believe the composition of the team shows an effort to draw a distinct line between it and the outgoing administration. They say it is noteworthy that all 15 members came from the DLP, and no academics or experts were chosen from outside.

Yi Chung-kil Vice Minister of Veterans Affairs

SK3012063692 Seoul YONHAP in English 0559 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 30 (YONHAP)—Yi Chung-kil, 51, the fourth administrative coordinator at the prime minister's office, was named vice minister of patriots and veterans affairs Wednesday.

A native of Chinju, South Kyongsang Province, Yi studied at Seoul National University's graduate school of administration. He began his career in public service with the Economic Planning Board and has served as an auditor at the office of presidential assistants for justice and inspection, and as a planning director at the Social Reform Commission.

Kim To Grant Prisoners of Conscience Amnesty

SK2912034192 Seoul YONHAP in English 0138 GMT 29 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 29 (YONHAP)—Kim Yong-sam plans to grant a large-scale amnesty to prisoners, lower interest rates, and ease government restrictions on land development soon after his inauguration as president on Feb. 25, his aides said Tuesday.

These were President-elect Kim's campaign pledges, the aides said, and if possible he hoped to carry them out even before his inauguration through coordination between the Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] and the administration of President No Tae-u.

With regard to the amnesty, to immediately follow the inauguration, the DLP has already sent to the Justice Ministry criteria for pardons that will include a large number of so-called prisoners of conscience.

Violators of the election law and radical leftists would not be granted amnesty, they said.

The DLP and the government are also discussing the possibility of granting amnesty to the Rev. Mun Ik-hwan, whose prison term was reduced in a Christmas amnesty last week. Mun was convicted of violating the National Security Law by making an unauthorized visit to North Korea.

The proposed amnesty by the president would be a special one, which does not require the consent of the National Assembly, party sources said.

The party and the Justice Ministry are also discussing a measure to erase the criminal records of those who have committed minor offenses such as traffic accidents or "economic crimes." If a law is passed on the measure to erase minor criminal records, some 800,000 out of 1.2 million people with records would benefit from it, the sources said.

In another area, the DLP hopes to lower interest rates by releasing the support fund for small- and medium-size enterprises to help prevent companies from going bankrupt. It also plans to simplify the procedure for borrowing money for smaller companies and eliminate corporate tax for companies with fewer than 10 employees, they said.

In addition, the DLP and the government will try to reduce the double-digit interest rates to single digits, they said.

Kim has instructed the party to draft a bill aimed at securing qualified teachers as part of his campaign pledges to improve the status of teachers, the sources said.

Other actions that could be carried out immediately and without budgetary back up include the liberalization of transactions in farm land, easing of government regulations on land development, redesignation of land for military protection, and increased employment of women and the disabled.

Kim Reaffirms Campaign Promise on Nepotism

SK2912051092 Seoul YONHAP in English 0314 GMT 29 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 29 (YONHAP)—President-elect Kim Yong-sam reaffirmed Tuesday his campaign pledge that he will not allow members of his family to get jobs in the government or work for social organizations.

"My family members should not do anything that could be a subject of public misunderstanding or controversy," he said.

His brother-in-law, Son Un-pae, 56, "should resign from the post immediately" if had become head of the Korea Teachers' Research Association (KTRA) as reported by the press, Kim said. [sentence as received]

Kim's remark, made public by Yi Won-chong, deputy spokesman of the Democratic Liberal Party, was aimed apparently at nipping a possible controversy over favoritism in the bud.

The KTRA, comprising 300 teachers of the Korean Federation of Teachers' Association, held its inaugural meeting Monday and elected Son its chairman. It vows to fight dissident teachers.

KTRA is to launch attacks on members of the outlawed Chongyojo, or the National Teachers Union, and Chonchuwi, or the National Alliance for the Reinstatement of Dismissed Teachers, for engaging in labor movements.

Spokesman Yi said he understood that Kim has strongly opposed to the formation of kTRA when it first held an organizers meeting Dec. 12.

"President-elect Kim was highly displeased by a report" on the election of his brother-in-law as its chairman, Yi said.

Although Son was elected and not appointed by anyone, many people nevertheless appeared Tuesday to wonder why Kim had not stopped him from getting involved in the organization.

However busy he might have been during the presidential campaign, he could have easily prevented Son from becoming leader of a controversial organization, they say.

Moreover, Kim is in a precarious position in which he would be called upon as a reform-minded president to resolve the question of Chongyojo, one of the thorniest issues to confront president No Tae-u's administration.

In any event, Kim showed, albeit belatedly, his avowed intention not to allow his family members to get favorable treatment from the government and social organizations, especially in employment.

He was reported to have told the members of his family who visited on his 65th birthday Dec. 27 that they all should be careful of their actions in public. He pointed out to them that there had been controversies involving relatives of Presidents Chon Tu-hwan and No Tae-u.

Kim acknowledged that his brother-in-law worked hard during the campaign for his election. But he should watch his step from now on, Kim was quoted by his aides as saying.

Kim also told his two eldest daughters, who came back from the United States to help his campaign, to go back to America and carry on their lives there, the aides said.

Foreign Ministry Denies Expanding to Trade

SK2912015092 Seoul YONHAP in English 2358 GMT 28 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 29 (YONHAP)—South Korea's Foreign Ministry denied press reports Tuesday that it will expand its organization to cover trade affairs.

"The idea is barely under review at the working level and has not been adopted as the ministry's official position," a spokesman said.

"The ministry has no plans to make such a recommendation to President-elect Kim Yong-sam," he said.

Influential vernacular daily the CHOSON ILBO reported in its Tuesday edition that the Foreign Ministry will recommend to Kim that he expand it to "Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Trade" and upgrade its minister to a deputy prime minister.

UPP Demands Special Assembly Session

SK2912015192 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 29 Dec 92 p 2

[Text] The United People's Party [UPP] decided yesterday to call for a special session of the National Assembly in January to examine the overall performance of the 6th Republic led by the incumbent President No Tae-u.

"We agreed at today's party caucus to demand an extra Assembly session to evaluate the achievements of the No's administration as well as sound out the direction of state policies of President-elect Kim Yong-sam's new administration. The special session should also delve into the majority party's mobilization of 'state power' during the Dec. 18 presidential election," said UPP spokesman Pyon Chong-il.

At the caucus, Chong Chu-yong, executive chairman of the UPP, expressed his strong determination to mount an offensive against the alleged government's partial investigation of the Hyundai bugging scandal.

He said, "The announcement that I made on Dec. 19 accepting the outcome of the presidential election was to help political stabilization and economic recovery. I didn't mean that the UPP would pass over in silence the government's oppression of the party and illegal electioneering of the Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] during the campaign."

At the following news conference, the party founder said he will have the UPP develop into a "democratic and policy party" by reforming it.

Admitting that a lot of cacophony had resulted from his unilateral way of operating the party, he said this was inevitable because he has sought efficiency first for the general and presidential elections. He said, "I believe the party should be operated by institutional means rather than by the decisions of a few close aides. And I will put forward a bold revision of the party constitution and regulation to back up this reform."

At his first news conference since his election defeat, he expressed objections to early reorganization of party leadership by saying that it was undesirable.

"I will take the necessary steps after considering what is best for the UPP and the people," Chong said.

He said the party will decide the steps in a national convention scheduled for April, 1993.

About cooperation with the opposition Democratic Party [DP], he said that the party will pursue it on a case by case basis to check the imposing ruling party.

On severing ties with Hyundai, the ex-chairman of the group said, "I share the opinion with Chong Se-yong, chairman of the conglomerate, that Hyundai employees in the UPP should return to the business group."

Concerning the special fund for party operation that he has promised, he said setting it up will take some time because he is having difficulty converting his stocks under present law.

Agricultural Ministry Sets 1993 Rice Target

SK2912040092 Seoul YONHAP in English 0203 GMT 29 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 29 (YONHAP)—The Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Ministry has set the target for next year's rice harvest at 36.5 million sok (one sok is 144 kilograms), down 500,000 sok from this year.

The target was 38 millon sok between 1981 and 1991, and 37 million sok this year.

It was decided Tuesday to lower the target due to the recent shrinkage in rice consumption and paddy land at a meeting of ministry directors presided over by Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Minister Kang Hyon-uk.

The ministry will secure 1,154,000 hectares of land for rice next year, down 0.3 percent or 3,000 hectares from this year, and try not to let arable land lie fallow.

An estimated 51,000 hectares of land was converted to other crops this year as rice growing has become unprofitable.

It set a goal of an average 455 kilograms of rice per 300 pyong (10 acres), up 1 percent from this year, by improving the environment.

The ministry will provide 77 tons of new varieties to farmers for a better quality rice and expand machine-transplanting to 600,000 hectares next year from 395,000 hectares this year to cut labor costs.

It was also decided that direct sowing should be conducted on more than 3,000 hectares on a trial basis, aiming to put the new method into nationwide practice from 1994.

1993 Economic Plan Focuses on Stability

SK2912023192 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 29 Dec 92 p 9

[Text] Stabilization will continue to constitute the main axis of the country's economic management plan for 1993 but policy priorities will be placed on enhancing industrial competitiveness.

In order to make stability take firm root, greater efforts will be put on controlling domestic demand.

The government will also make all-out efforts to improve the corporate management climate so that the stagnant economy could be revived through strengthened industrial competitiveness and activated facility investment.

Deputy Prime Minister Choe Kak-kyu yesterday reported these and other main contents of the 1993 economic management plan to President No Tae-u with relevant economic ministers in attendance.

Choe reported that the government will press ahead with economic reforms as a way to prepare for the growing openness and deregulation of the economy.

The 1993 economic management plan envisages that the economy will grow 6-7 percent next year in real terms, up from this year's estimated 5 percent.

Choe, who also serves as an economic planning minister, said the government's policies to stimulate corporate capital spending, coupled with a loosened grip on construction starts, will help boost GNP growth next year.

The Bank of Korea predicted the GNP growth for 1993 at 5.8 percent and the Korea Development Institute foresees it at 6.4 percent.

The inflation rate, as measured by consumer prices, was projected at 4-5 percent, similar to this year's 4.5 percent. The wholesale price index was supposed to increase by 2-3 percent.

The government's target range for the M2 growth will be tightened from this year's 18.5 percent to 13-17 percent with the money supply subject to change on a quarterly basis.

Choe reported that the government plans to implement the second phase of interest rate deregulation at the earliest possible date while trying continuously to stabilize interest rates at lower levels.

The top policy maker said the country's financial system needs to be overhauled given the changing financial situation, hinting that the entire financial industry will be reorganized in such a direction toward fostering international competitiveness.

To help stabilize prices, the government will encourage companies to keep wage increases below productivity gains.

Particularly for employees at government agencies and state-invested companies, wage increases will be held in check at below three percent, Choe said, adding that private companies will be urged to follow the government-set wage guidelines.

The government will also lift all construction bans except those on recreational facilities as the supply-demand balance for construction manpower and materials has improved, Choe reported.

The 1993 economic management plan places particular emphasis on enhancing the competitiveness of manufacturing firms. The supply of facility funds will be expanded at a maximum level.

Specifically, the upper limit for foreign currency loans will be abolished and tax exemptions for facility investment will be expanded for all manufacturing firms.

The plan also calls for a big increase in government expenditure for research and development and businesses's technology investment.

Choe reported that the trade balance will improve a little, boosted by enhanced competitiveness of Korean manufacturing firms. Exports will increase 8 percent to about 83 billion dollars next year on a customs clearance basis while imports will amount to 86.5 billion dollars, up 6 percent.

The trade account was forecast to reach a balance on a balance of payments (BOP) basis.

The current account deficit for 1993 was projected at three billion dollars, down from this year's estimated 4.5 billion dollars. The invisible trade gap will widen to three billion dollars from this year's 2.7 billion dollars.

Miyazawa's ROK Visit Said Uncertain

SK3012023492 Seoul YONHAP in English 0050 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 30 (OANA-YONHAP)—The Japanese prime minister's attendance at February's inauguration of South Korea's president is less than certain, the MAINICHI SHIMBUN reported Wednesday.

Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) lawmakers are opposing the trip, saying Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa should be in Tokyo for budget deliberations at that time, the paper said.

The parliamentary session next year is certain to be turbulent as lawmakers press the government about former prime minister Noboru Takeshita's ties with the mob.

Miyazawa's own aides are warning him the opposition may turn his Seoul visit against him, MAINICHI said.

Government spokesman Yohei Kono had initially said there was nothing blocking Miyazawa's attendance at the inaugural ceremony but recently changed his line, saying parliamentary deliberation came before the Seoul visit, it said.

President-elect Kim Yong-sam will be sworn in on Feb. 25.

Japan just last week expressed its intention to have Miyazawa attend the ceremony at a meeting between directors-general of Foreign Ministry Asian Affairs bureaus, officials in Seoul said.

Some press reports said the prime minister was planning a single-day visit, including a summit with the new president.

Takeshita attended President No Tae-u's inaugural ceremony in February 1988.

Seoul To Contribute Cash to Somalia PKO

SK3012062992 Seoul YONHAP in English 0238 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 30 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korea decided Wednesday to contribute cash to the U.N. operation in Somalia (UNOSOM) and to consider troop dispatch when requested by the United Nations.

The presidential office, Economic Planning Board, Defense Ministry and Foreign Ministry agreed on financial contributions to UNOSOM, said Kim Chae-sop, director-general of the Foreign Ministry's International Organizations Bureau.

"We will decide on the amount according to our capability," he said

"We cannot reveal the amount of the contributions until it is approved by the president. But it will be based on the share of South Korea's donation to the United Nations and the peacekeeping operations [PKO].

"The United Nations will have to decide whether it needs additional troops when the PKO takes over. We will consider how we may contribute to PKO if the United Nations requests South Korea's participation," Kim said.

U.N. Secretary-general Butros Butros-Ghali sent a request dated Dec. 17 for Seoul's financial contribution to the Somalia operation. The money will be for the multinational forces in Somalia.

Korea's share in donations to the United Nations is 0.69 percent of the total, and one fifth of it, approximately 3.7 million U.S. dollars, goes to PKO.

The United Nations has set aside 480 million dollars for operation restore hope.

The money is to be delivered in a lump sum as soon as possible, according to Kim.

Most of the countries participating in the operation intend to stay on for the PKO mission, and the United Nations will wait to see if it needs more troops, Kim said.

Paper Interviews SRV Envoy to ROK

SK2612082292 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 25 Dec 92 p 17

[Interview with Vietnamese Ambassador to the ROK Nguyen Phu Binh by reporter Cho Hang-min on 24 December; place not given]

[Text] Nguyen Phu Binh, 45, who has been appointed Vietnamese ambassador to the ROK, said on 24 December that Vietnam and South Korea successfully established diplomatic relations because their people understand each other from a new, correct perspective, thus attaching a significance to the successful conclusion of the two countries' diplomatic relations.

Ambassador Nguyen Phu Binh said that the ROK people are reassessing their participation in the Vietnam war with honesty and truth. The Vietnamese are also trying to erase their dark feelings toward the ROK.

The ambassador graduated from a language and literature department at Kim Il-song University and served as a career diplomat in North Korea. He is fluent in the Korean language and familiar with North-South relations.

[Cho Hang-min] Do you have any steps planned to resolve the issue of refugees in foreign countries?

[Nguyen Phu Binh] The Vietnamese situation is being stabilized, and I think this issue can be easily resolved. If the refugees who are still in the ROK want to return to Vietnam, we can arrange it.

[Cho] What do you think is the most urgent issue in the two countries' relations?

[Nguyen] As is well known, Vietnam wants economic cooperation. Vietnam has to begin from scratch to heal the protracted scars of war. We want ROK investment in key industries, particularly in roads, harbors, and communication.

[Cho] What do you think is North Korea's position on the establishment of our two countries' diplomatic relations?

[Nguyen] North Korea understands us well. North Korea will find no reason to oppose our establishing relations if it is in the interest of the prevailing international trend, Asian development, and the people. Furthermore, the North and the South made progress in their relations because of their simultaneous entry into the UN, did they not?

[Cho] U.S.-Vietnam relations have improved remarkably recently. When do you expect that they will establish diplomatic relations.

[Nguyen] The United States presented two conditions for the establishment of diplomatic relations. These two conditions are being met. Vietnamese efforts for peace in Cambodia are recognized, and the issue of the U.S. soldiers missing in action is being resolved. If the United States lifts its economic sanctions against Vietnam, the two countries will probably establish diplomatic relations soon.

[Cho] An atmosphere for opening up is ripening in Indochina. What contribution is Vietnam making to this?

[Nguyen] Vietnam is playing a leading role in peace-loving and economic development. The Indochinese peninsula will go further toward reform and opening.

[Cho] How do you compare the future of a unified Vietnam with that of a divided Korea?

[Nguyen] Vietnam achieved its reunification after an endless struggle against outside force, including France, Japan, and the United States. Unlike Vietnamese reunification, the reunification on the Korean peninsula will most likely be achieved through dialogue.

[TONG-A ILBO] Finally, on regaining the former Vietnamese Embassy in Samchong-tong, Seoul, he said: "The two countries reached a financial agreement in principle. I think this will be resolved smoothly."

PRC, DPRK on Trade With Foreign Exchange

SK3012102392 Seoul YONHAP in English 0932 GMT 30 Dec 92

Tokyo, Dec. 30 (YONHAP)—China has recently asked North Korea to settle bilateral trade with foreign exchanges beginning next year, the KYODO News Service of Japan reported from Beijing Wednesday.

Quoting a report of the New China News Agency, KYODO said China's Foreign Economic Relations and Trade Minister Li Lanqing told visiting North Korean Vice Trade Minister Kang Chong-mo not to put off any further the agreed-on method of settling China-North Korea trade with foreign exchanges.

"The system of foreign-exchange settlement of trade beginning next year would be mutually beneficial," Li was quoted as saying.

Last January China signed an agreement with North Korea on the switch of the barter trade method into a foreign-exchange settlement system, but its implementation was postponed until next year in consideration of North Korea's difficult foreign exchange situation.

However, North Korea's Kang expressed the hope to stick to the barter system by saying, "North Korea would like to work out with China an agreement on the transactions of crude oil and coal," KYODO added.

Russia Fails Again To Meet Interest Payments

SK2912013192 Seoul YONHAP in English 2353 GMT 28 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 29 (YONHAP)—The prospects for South Korean-Russian economic cooperation turned murky again Tuesday after Russia failed to pay interest for December on South Korean loans.

Government sources said Tuesday that Russia has paid interest on loans for the purchase of consumer goods. It also paid interest on Korean bank loans in aluminum ingots when Russian President Boris Yeltsin visited Korea last month.

But Russia failed to follow up with an interest payment of 6.3 million U.S. dollars due on Dec. 15. Moreover, Russia has not responded to Korea's draft contract for the supply of aluminum ingots it promised to ship in lieu of interest payments for the bank loans, the sources said.

As a result, the chances of resuming economic cooperation between South Korea and Russia from 1993 have become slim, the sources said.

Russia To Hand Over KAL Flight Tapes to ICAO

SK3012031892 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 30 Dec 92 p 2

[Text] The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) will analyze tapes of the cockpit video recorder (CVR) and digital flight data recorder (DFDR) over a period of about two weeks, starting around Jan. 11, in Paris to determine the circumstances of the downing of KAL [Korean Air Lines] Flight 007, the Foreign Ministry said yesterday.

A ministry official said that the tapes will be handed over to the ICAO by Russia in neutral France on Jan. 8 or 9.

As a second stage, an inspection team of the Montreal-based body will visit four nations involved in the KAL incident—South Korea, the United States, Japan and Russia—in February to collect relevant information.

A simulated test will be conducted with the participation of the four nations as observers after the completion of decoding, the official said.

The timetable of the investigation was decided on at the 137th board of directors meeting of the ICAO held on Dec. 18, the official said.

The secretariat proposed guidelines, the investigation team will be composed of experts of the ICAO secretariat, mainly persons who participated in the probe in 1983, but nationals of the four nations involved will be excluded.

France will be appointed as the place for the handing-over of the materials and decoding tapes. The four nations will be entitled to participate in the investigation as observers.

Accord Signed With Russia Gas Consortium

SK3012115992 Seoul YONHAP in English 0715 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 30 (YONHAP)—Korean and Russian consortia for developing natural gas in Yakutsk signed an agreement on a preliminary feasibility study and manpower in Seoul Wednesday.

The presidents of the Korea Petroleum Development Corp., Korea Gas Corp., Daewoo Corp. and Yukong Ltd. represented the eight-member Korean consortium.

The Russian consortium was represented by six officials from Moscow, including the deputy fuel and energy minister, and the deputy premier and five other officials from Sakha Republic.

The two sides agreed that the preliminary feasibility study should last a year after members are chosen and materials are provided.

Sakha is to provide the materials on geological peculiarities concerning gas deposits in Yakutsk by Jan. 15.

Sakha and Russia are to submit by Jan. 20 information on research institutions and experts that can carry out the feasibility study.

The two sides will meet again in Yakutsk in March to select members of the feasibility study team.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Fifth Consecutive Trade Surplus in Sep Reported

BK3012055492 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0451 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Dec 30 (OANA/BERNAMA)—A trade surplus of RM563 million [Malaysian ringgit] (US$1=RM2.58) was recorded in September, the fifth consecutive monthly surplus this year, compared with a RM38.1 million deficit for the same month last year.

The department of statistics said the September surplus was also 451 per cent or RM174.9 million higher than the RM388.1 million surplus registered in August this year.

Higher growth in exports of 12.1 percent compared with the 4.8 percent increase in imports contributed to the excess recorded in September contrasted with September last year.

Total exports in September were valued at RM9,294.1 million against imports of RM8,731 million.

The country's cumulative deficit for the first nine months of this year also continued to drop to RM572.1 million against the RM6,349.7 million deficit previously.

The narrowing of the cumulative deficit for the period under review was due to the export growth momentum accelerating [word indistinct] percent that the 0.7 per cent growth for imports.

The higher exports were largely attributed to the substantial jump in export of machinery nd transport equipment, manufactured goods, and miscellaneous manufactured goods which accounted for a combined 63 per cent of total export value.

The lower growth in imports was largely attributed to a sharp decreased in imports of miscellaneous transactions and commodities, particularly non-monetary gold which fell by 60.9 percent.

Singapore, the United States and Japan were the major export destinations and main sources of imports.

Malaysia's major trading partners in September continued to be Singapore, Japan, the US, Taiwan, Germany, Britain and South Korea which accounted for 71.8 per cent of total trade value.

Major surpluses,were recorded in trade with Singapore, the US, the Netherlands, Hong Kong, Thailand, Pakistan, the Philippines, the United Arab Emirates, Britain and South Korea.

Major deficits were registered in trade with Japan, Taiwan, Switzerland, Australia, China, Brazil, Italy, Finland, Germany, New Zealand, Sweden and Indonesia.

Petroleum Remains Top Commodity Earner in 1992

BK3012072692 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0707 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Dec 30 (OANA/BERNAMA)—Petroleum will remain Malaysia's single major commodity earner in 1992 even though revenue would be slightly less from 1991.

Economists attribute the decline to factors like cuts in the country's crude oil production, lower prices and the oversupply situation in the world.

The treasury's economic report 1992/1993 said exports earnings from crude petroleum were expected to decline by 11.4 percent to RM9.022 billion [Malaysian ringgit] (about US$3.58 billion) this year after having registered a decline of 4.3 percent in 1991.

It said the lower export unit value was in line with the fundamentals prevailing in the world market and the anticipated decline in world crade oil prices.

Crude output for Malaysia was reported at an average of 630,000 barrels per day for the first 11 months of this year with an export volume of 101.5 million barrels.

In comparison, Malaysia produced 652,000 bpd [barrels per day] for the whole of 1991 (export of 175 million barrels) and 622,400 bpd in 1990 (export of 170 million barrels).

The most significant feature for the commodity for the whole of 1992 and 1993 would be its price.

"The organisation of petroleum exporting countries would still be the major force in determining the price and supply of petroleum in the world in the near and long term," an economist said.

The world price of crude oil has been fluctuating below the US$21 per barrel level for most of the year. That level was expected to be maintained into 1993.

World crude oil prices ranged between US$17 and US$18 per barrel in the first quarter of this year compared to US$20 to US$21 per barrel in the corresponding period of 1991 as OPEC members exceeded their production quotas.

The second quarter saw better prices as OPEC members reduced their production while prices were expected to be marginal in the third and fourth quarters of 1992, given the uncertainties of an economic recovery in major industrialised countries and supply factors in the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Cambodia

Official: Border Trade To Continue Unhampered

BK2812014792 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 28 Dec 92 p 7

[Text] Poi Pet—Phnom Penh Deputy Commerce Minister Phang Saret says that apart from logs other trade with Thailand will continue unhampered at the Thai-Cambodian border.

Mr Phang said UN sanctions against the Khmer Rouge will be effective from January 1 but border points will be closed only for logs.

He said border points between Ban Klong Luek in Aranyaprathet and Poi Pet, as well as between Klong Yai District in Trat and Koh Kong province in Cambodia, will not be closed. Trade there will continue as usual.

He spoke at a New Year party of Thai officers and Khmer officials in Poi Pet district of Bantey Meanchey province.

Thailand's First Engineering Task Force Battalion, which is building a 40-kilometre section of Route Five between Poi Pet and Srisophon district, organised the party.

Army Engineering Department director Lt-Gen Narunat Kampanatsaenyakon headed the Thais while the Cambodians were represented by Mr Phang and Bantey Meanchey Deputy Governor Ith Reau.

Lt-Col Wirasak Raksasap commander of the engineering battalion, said Route Five is about half completed and will become an important economic and trade route between Thailand and Cambodia.

He conceded that Thai traders were worried that a war would break out in Cambodia when the sanctions against the Khmer Rouge came into effect. However, he does not think things will worsen because all sides, led by the UNTAC and Cambodia's Supreme National Council, are trying to solve the problem.

Lt-Gen Narunat yesterday visited the Second Engineering Task Force Battalion which is building a 69-kilometre section of Route Five between Srisophon and Battambang districts. The section is about 80 per cent complete.

About 1,100 Thai soldiers are building roads in Cambodia as part of the international effort to revive the country.

Logging Ban To Have 'Little Real Impact'

BK3012095692 Hong Kong AFP in English 0844 GMT 30 Dec 92

[By Sheri Prasso]

[Text] Phnom Penh, Dec 30 (AFP)—A ban going into effect Thursday on exports of Cambodian logs will not stop the hemorrhaging of the country's rich hardwoods as greed forces loggers to slide around the letter of the law, observers say.

While politicians have called the ban a victory, U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) officials concede it will have little real impact on the draining of the country's resources.

"It's practically unimplementable," said one senior U.N. official who could not be identified.

Most logging in Cambodia is unregulated. Thousands of logs slip across borders into Vietnam and Thailand and onto ships to Singapore, Hong Kong and Japan, U.N. officials say.

U.N. peacekeepers only have the power to monitor, not prevent, the exports and say they must rely on the local Cambodian authorities—who themselves are profiting from logging—for enforcement.

"Even if it's 20 percent to 30 percent effective, it is already something," said Christine Alfsen of UNTAC's rehabilitation component. "Just to declare it illegal is a discouragement."

Only uncut logs are prohibited from crossing the border. As a result, thousands of new sawmills have sprung up all over Cambodia, just slicing the logs into crude planks before export, U.N. officials say.

A ceiling on sawn timber has not yet been determined.

"This leaves a huge loophole. It's not very difficult to set up a crude sawmill," said one Western diplomat. "Realistically, UNTAC has little chance of itself being able to implement or enforce the measure."

UNTAC has set up about 20 checkpoints along the borders with Vietnam, Thailand and Laos, but for every U.N.-manned point, there are up to eight subsidiary border crossings where logs can cross undetected.

Having Cambodian authorities watch the border is a bit like having the fox guard the henhouse, the diplomatic source said.

"The chickens are in trouble," he said.

UNTAC spokesman Eric Berman said Wednesday that peacekeepers would patrol Cambodia's borders by air to monitor logging exports, including those in Khmer Rouge territory.

"The plan is to have reconnaissance over every area," he said, despite the threat of attack over Khmer Rouge airspace.

An important aspect of the logging ban is its effect on the Khmer Rouge, who so far have refused to go along with peacekeepers implementing a peace plan ending the civil war, U.N. officials and diplomats say.

The U.N. Security Council endorsed the ban as a political measure in November at the same time it imposed an oil embargo against the radical faction.

Khmer Rouge logging activity has not been quantified, but a faction spokesman said it earns his party less than one million U.S. dollars per month.

Without the cooperation of Thai military authorities who control Cambodia's western and northern borders, any embargo would be meaningless. Thailand's politicians have publicly agreed to close the border to loggers, but the Thai military is thought to have relatively independent control.

Thai newspapers have reported that logging companies stand to lose more than 100 million dollars in proceeds from concessions in Khmer Rouge zones, making the business hard to pass up.

But while the immediate focus is on politics, the environmental question remains a pressing issue.

A U.N. Development Programme study in 1991 found that Cambodia's forests may have been reduced by almost half—from an original 13 million hectares (32 million acres) to seven million hectares (17 million acres).

Since then, the pace of logging has quickened furiously making the extent of environmental damage impossible to measure.

Thousands of logs lay piled up near Cambodia's borders awaiting transit, according to U.N. officials, as Thai authorities say they will apply for an extension of the ban to remove already felled trees.

"They're felling every tree they can find and saying 'We just want to take out what we've cut down'," the diplomatic source said.

Hun Sen Informs Sihanouk of Situation 24 Dec

BK2512102992 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 24 Dec 92

[Text] On 24 December, His Excellency Hun Sen, vice chairman of the Cambodian People Party's Central Committee, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the State of Cambodia [SOC], and member of the Supreme National Council [SNC], sent a letter to His Royal Highness [HRH] Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of the SNC, who is receiving medical treatment in Beijing. The letter reads:

My respects to HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and SNC chairman, Beijing.

Your Royal Highness the prince father:

Please allow me to express my profound thanks for your message dated 20 December 1992, in which you expressed sympathy for your innocent children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren in Bavel district of Battambang Province who once again became victims of the Khmer Rouge's dry season offensives, in which four persons were killed, 10 others wounded, 26 houses burned down, and 52 oxen and buffaloes killed. At the same time, 1,807 families with 13,215 persons were forced to leave their villages and communes, abandon the rice crops they were harvesting, and flee in order to find an arduous refuge with the government along Route 58 in Thmar Koul commune. The government and the Cambodian Red Cross have been sending emergency assistance in the form of food, medicine, shelters, and so on, to the victims.

I would also like to inform HRH the prince that at the beginning of this year the UN High Commissioner for Refugees [UNHCR] agreed with the state authority in those areas to build centers for receiving compatriots returning from camps in Thailand. This is why there were reports that some returnees who had just arrived in these areas were also victims in the same way as the compatriot peasants there.

Some representatives of international organizations and UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] officials also went there to see for themselves and witnessed this lamentable scene. I would like to inform HRH that this is not the first time that your children and grandchildren in Bavel district and other areas inside the country have been victims of attacks, raids, and shellings by the Party of Democratic Kampuchea [PDK], the Khmer Rouge.

All of us and every Cambodian treasure peace as much as they do their own lives and will do everything for peace and national reconciliation under the prince father's cool shade and warm leadership. But the Khmer Rouge have not let the people live peacefully or rebuild the country in peace. The whole world knows, sees, and has experienced the obstacles created by the Khmer Rouge; but they seem unable to stop the violations by the Khmer Rouge, while the latter can hinder the peace process at every step.

Your Royal Highness, since the signing of the Paris agreement, the Khmer Rouge continue to send a lot of war materiel, ammunition, large and small guns, and even tanks to infiltrate areas close to people's villages. They have infiltrated villages in order to oppress and threaten innocent peasants, escalate the war, and seize more land and people in accordance with the strategy and tactics they had used effectively. Compatriot peasants live in fear of mines, shellings, and guerrilla intimidation. As compatriot peasants are gentle and love and treasure their land, they have endured hardship and refused to desert their villages and farms and the fields they have inherited or recently acquired. This is because these lands and fields are their lives.

Like the army of the two other parties, the SOC troops have fully abided by the peace agreement. They have gathered in camps waiting to be demobilized and been placed under UNTAC supervision. At the same time, they have always maintained a spirit and sense of responsibility to provide security for the peasants. For this reason, compatriot peasants, your children and grandchildren, know very well who have oppressed them, threatened them, forcibly drafted them to transport ammunition or take up training in the jungle, and incited or threatened them not to register for elections or to vote. Despite all this, peasants have been brave and have registered in great numbers with UNTAC. This has caused the Khmer Rouge to increase their pressure another degree. Now the peasants and UNTAC, the latter being the first, have sneaked away from the Khmer Rouge to stay in the government-controlled zones.

I would like also to inform the prince father that we have correctly and sincerely cooperated with UNTAC, given asistance to facilitate all kinds of tasks under UNTAC's supervision, and behaved as a good host. We believe that UNTAC is clearly aware of and knows very well who have violated the agreement, launched attacks on innocent people, fired at UNTAC helicopters and cars, terrorized UNTAC's poll registration teams, taken UNTAC officials as hostages, and confiscated UNTAC cars, duping UNTAC into flying in a helicopter to where those people were and capturing everyone when it landed.

However, to maintain its neutrality, UNTAC has strangely concluded that the two major parties were equally to blame for violating the cease-fire while the SOC was only exercizing the right to defend itself, the people, and UNTAC itself, under fire from the guerrillas inside the jungles who were aiming at crowded areas. If the people's armed forces had not retaliated in self-defense, the number of people and war refugees would have increased many times. UNTAC would not have been able to control the situation. It is clear that our side and UNTAC have never encroached upon the Khmer Rouge zones; only the Khmer Rouge have violated and fired on UNTAC. Can equal blame be put on UNTAC as well as on the Khmer Rouge?

As for the violent activities said to be politically motivated, UNTAC seems to be happy with drawing conclusions and accusing the SOC with no evidence and without waiting for proof. Some UNTAC officials lack political maturity. Some young journalists and some opportunistic political parties are playing the Khmer Rouge's game, providing assistance to poison the political atmosphere and helping the Khmer Rouge in their propaganda. Others strive to defend the Khmer Rouge, saying that the captures of UNTAC staff are isolated cases without systematic orders, concluding almost that those who held the UNTAC staff and the helicopter may not even have been Khmer Rouge.

I and the SOC side would like to inform the prince head of state that we fully respect and follow you and strive to protect the people and spare them any further suffering and hardship. However, the Khmer Rouge have a clear strategic goal. They do not care about national and international opinions; their main aim is to return to power.

I would like to conclude that attacks and unjust accusations will not cease as long as the SOC does not allow the Khmer Rouge to seize power unopposed and does not hand over everything to the Khmer Rouge to rule the country and establish their peace again. Like all the people, your children, I believe that you alone can bring about genuine peace for the nation.

All of us pray that you recover your good health and energy quickly and have a long life in order to steer the Cambodian peace ship toward peace at the other end. Greetings and wishes to the royal consort; may she enjoy good fortune and prosperity always. Greetings to the revered HRH head of state with most profound respect.

Khmer Rouge 15-23 Dec Alleged Attacks Reported

BK3012045992 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1200 GMT 29 Dec 92

[Text] Last week, the Khmer Rouge continued to brutally attack the State of Cambodia [SOC] side by shelling and raiding some SOC-controlled areas, killing many villagers and a number of our combatants, and destroying a great deal of property. Along with this, they also harassed UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] by shelling its positions, causing a deadlock in the process of UNTAC-organized elections.

According to the Commission for the Coordination of Military Affairs with the United Nations, on 15 December in Battambang Province, 18 Khmer Rouge elements from Division 36 infiltrated and fired many B-40 rockets on Kaoh Cha and Sai Villages west of Moung Russei District. This forced teams of UNTAC's voter registration officers to retreat to Moung Russei District seat and to Kar Kaoh Village.

At 1115 on 18 December, a group of 60 or 70 Khmer Rouge soldiers attacked the position of the SOC side's Division 6 in Ta Hen area, killing one combatant, wounding 12 others, and taking prisoner one soldier of the 23d regiment.

On 17 December in Kompong Cham Province, Khmer Rouge troops raided the position of the 2d company, 5th battalion, 51st regiment, 7th division of the Cambodian People's Armed Forces in Cheung Prey District. As a result, two guns were destroyed, a villager was killed, and six others were wounded.

At 1520 on 20 December in Kampot Province, Khmer Rouge troops ambushed a convoy of cars, killing two passengers and wounding three others and damaging a vehicle.

At 1335 on 21 December in Preah Vihear Province, Khmer Rouge elements fired eight H-12 rounds on Kantuot Village in Choam Khsan District.

On 22 December in Siem Reap Province, Khmer Rouge troops fired 23 rounds with H-107 and DK-72 guns on Sleng, Spean Thnaot, and Chong Villages.

At 0625 on 22 December, Khmer Rouge soldiers fired 120 rounds with H-107 guns, 120-mm mortars, and 105-mm cannons on Bavel district seat.

At 0300 on 23 December, a group of 40 or 50 Khmer Rouge elements launched a two-pronged attack against the office building of Russei Trang commune and the 4th battalion's position. As a result of one hour of fighting, many villagers were killed and two houses were burned. At the same time, our armed forces, with self-defense spirit, counterattacked the Khmer Rouge troops, killing four of them and wounding 11 others and seizing an AK rifle and some war materiel.

At 0700 on 16 December in Kompong Thom Province, a group of 10 or 15 Khmer Rouge soldiers from the 54th regiment of Division 802 sprayed bullets on people harvesting rice in Stoeng Kambot and O Sandan areas, killing a villager and lightly wounding two others.

'Attack' on 22 Dec Described

BK2812071392 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 27 Dec 92

[Text] On 22 December 1992 at 0625, the Khmer Rouge launched an attack using rockets and artillery support fire, including (?3.82) mortars, (?120-mm), D-85, H-107, and 105-mm and 130-mm support artillery pieces, on the position of the 8th company of the State of Cambodia [SOC] Army in Battambang Province's Bavel district.

According to sources from the battlefield in northwest Cambodia, up to 160 shells were fired in the attack. A hospital was seriously damaged. Along with this shelling, the Khmer Rouge also launched attacks using infantry troops against positions of this company.

According to the assessment of UN observers, the current attacks launched by the Khmer Rouge in Cambodia's northwestern provinces are the most serious since the signing of the Paris peace agreement over a year ago. Due to these attacks, over 10,000 innocent Cambodian people have been forced to become refugees for the second time and have fled their houses. Also on the same day at 0800, the Khmer Rouge attacked the positions of the 4th company of the 22d Battalion at the point 63.64 in Bavel district.

Furthermore, on 22 December, in Chikreng district, Siem Reap- Oddar Meanchey Province, the Khmer Rouge fired three H-107 rockets on the (Sat Ak) area and Sleng village in the sector 50.27. Also on the same day, the Khmer Rouge fired 20 DK-75 shells on (?Krang Leav), Spean Thnaot, and Thlong villages. In Angkor Thom district on 22 December at 1830, a group of 20 Khmer Rouge soldiers from Battalion 52 of Division (?612), carried out activities against the SOC troops in the sector 95.74. At 1400 on 22 December, 15 Khmer Rouge soldiers armed with AK's, 60-mm mortars, and B-40's infiltrated into [name indistinct] in the sector (?97.82) in an attempt to launch an attack against the positions of Battalion 83.

In Kompong Cham Province, according to the provincial command, on 22 December at 1835, two Khmer Rouge soldiers, riding on a motorbike, launched an attack using B-40 rockets on the office of the Buddhist Liberal Democratic Party in Prey Chhor district; three members of this party were wounded.

Security Ministry Reports KR Troop 'Violations'

BK2812140892 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 28 Dec 92

["News flash"]

[Text] According to National Security Ministry sources, on 25 December Khmer Rouge [KR] troops from Division 912 attacked the positions of our forces at [name indistinct] and (Chruoh Chamhak) in Banteay Srei District, Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey Province, and also fired DK-75 shells on Svay village. Our forces managed to keep our positions.

On the same day from 1230 to 1250, 30 Khmer Rouge soldiers attacked Ta Penh sector using infantry troops and firing DK-82 guns and H-107 rockets on Svay Leu district seat. At 1830, another 30 Khmer Rouge soldiers attacked sector 97.15, 3 km from Svay Leu district seat.

In Angkor Chum District, also in Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey Province, at 1100 on 20 December police and administrative forces in Sre Khvav and Don Pek clashed with Khmer Rouge troops for 10 minutes; two Khmer Rouge soldiers were wounded; and we seized three AK's.

In Preah Vihear Province from 1325 on 22 December to 0700 on 23 December, Khmer Rouge troops fired 10 H-12 and H-107 rockets on Yeang village, Yeang commune; there was no damage, however. Also in Preah Vihear Province at 0800 on 23 December, Khmer Rouge troops fired 14 H-107 rockets on Kulen district seat but there was no damage.

In Kompong Speu Province on 26 December at 1030, provincial troops from the 2d Battalion, 97th Regiment of the Cambodian People's Army travelled in an armored payroll vehicle with money to pay our troops in Choam Sangke village in Phnum Sruoch District. However, the vehicle was ambushed by the Khmer Rouge and hit by three B-40 rockets in succession 1,500 meters east of Vat Damnak Lvea in O village, Phnum Sruoch District. The armored vehicle was burned. We fought back for 15 minutes forcing the assailants to flee. We suffered four dead and 10 wounded; some money was also lost.

These are very gross violations by the Khmer Rouge against the State of Cambodia [SOC], causing serious damage to the property, lives, and peace of our people.

To defend the people, the SOC must exercise its right to self-defense by resolutely opposing the return of the genocidal regime.

More on Khmer Rouge Activities

BK2912134792 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 29 Dec 92

["News flash"]

[Text] According to Security Ministry sources, on 25 December the Khmer Rouge used 24 vehicles to transport ammunition, 120-mm mortar shells, and D-130-mm guns, and moved troops to (Vat Tatuos) area and (Chankrang). Furthermore, 500 Khmer Rouge troops were hiding west and east of (?Stoung) from Dei Sar to (Ang Toek Ta Hen).

West of (Prey Khting) and Lvea villages, the Khmer Rouge have brought 150 troops for reinforcement to Boeng Kandal along with three 122-mm mortars. These troops were deployed and shells arranged in trenches to prepare for attacks against the district seat and to put pressure on Lvea village and (?Sre Chea).

In Kompong Thom Province, on 25 December at 1710, the Khmer Rouge fired four H-107 rockets on (?Stoung) District seat, killing one child, wounding four persons, and damaging a car and many bicycles and motorcycles.

On 26 December at 2200, 150 Khmer Rouge soldiers from Division 616 transported H-107 rockets in three oxcarts to (Vihear Sla) and San Kor villages in Kompong Svay District, in preparation for attacks against San Kor village.

These activities by the Khmer Rouge show the warmongering nature and brutality of this group which has always tried to return to power through military means to massacre the Cambodian people again.

Akashi's Handling of Political Violence Viewed

BK2712063092 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 26 Dec 92

[Station commentary: "Akashi's Measure of Using Thieves To Catch Thieves Will Intensify Violence and Political Terrorist Activities in an Even More Brutal and Fascist Manner"]

[Text] On 25 December UNTAC Chief Akashi made a statement on some measures to fight the violence and political terrorist activities that are spreading throughout Cambodia. Akashi also said he has told the Phnom Penh side to order its state authority in the provinces and districts to cooperate with UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] on this.

The public, both nationally and internationally, as well as the majority of UNTAC personnel have clearly come to realize that over the past year Akashi has been colluding with the Vietnamese aggressors and the Phnom Penh puppets to carry out maneuvers and all kinds of fascist activities in contravention of the 23 October Paris agreement. Akashi is also implementing a modified Paris agreement prepared by the Vietnamese aggressors, the Phnom Penh puppets, and allies both inside and outside of UNTAC so that there will only be one party, namely the Phnom Penh puppets who have been propped up by Vietnam. In practice this is to enable Vietnam to continue occupying Cambodia through Vietnam's Indochinese federation strategy.

With this sinister political goal in mind the Vietnamese aggressors, the Phnom Penh puppets, and their allies inside and outside UNTAC, continue to categorically behave in the following manner:

1. Refuse to allow the Supreme National Council [SNC], chaired by His Royal Highness [HRH] Prince Norodom Sihanouk, to play the role of a legitimate and sole source of power in Cambodia during the transitional period;
2. Refuse to verify that all types of Vietnamese aggressor forces have been withdrawn from Cambodia;
3. Allow new Vietnamese forces to flow into Cambodia at will. There are more than 2 millions of them now; and
4. Refuse to allow UNTAC and the SNC to control the five major ministries.

This is the root cause hindering the comprehensive implementation of the Paris agreement. It has enabled the Vietnamese aggressors and their puppets to massacre the Cambodian people in a savage and fascist manner. This has allowed the Vietnamese aggressors and the Phnom Penh puppets to repress, arrest, and murder people and increase all kinds of terrorist activities against the Cambodian people and various political parties.

And now Akashi pretends to announce measures to tackle political terrorist activities. In fact, he still relies on the Phnom Penh puppet regime, propped up by the Vietnamese aggressors. Can he solve the problem? The Khmer People's National Liberation Front [KPNLF] has declared that over the past year, 22 of its members have been assassinated. More than 10 members of the FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] party have also been murdered. Along with this, repeated grenade attacks have been carried out against the offices of Cambodian national resistance forces, the FUNCINPEC party, and the KPNLF in Battambang, Pursat, Phnom Penh, Takhmau, Kampot, Kompong Som, Svay Rieng and Banteay Meanchey, and so on.

Apart from this, there has also been repression and most savage open and secret killings of students demonstrating against the Vietnamese aggressors and the puppets, Vietnam's lackeys, in the December 1991 demonstrations and in the recent demonstrations in December 1992. Scores of students were wounded or killed.

On these matters, the public inside and outside the country and the international public in general—and more recently HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and SNC chairman, in his 13 December statement—have stressed that UNTAC and the Phnom Penh puppets are responsible for these political terrorist activities and fascist crimes. If Akashi is cooperating with thieves, how can he solve the problem of thieves? No, this cannot be done. All these problems should be solved within a framework, including the Paris agreement. This involves:

1. Giving the SNC a role as the legitimate and sole source of power during the transitional period;
2. Verifying that all types of Vietnamese aggressor forces are withdrawn from Cambodia;
3. UNTAC-SNC cooperation in controlling the five major ministries.

Phnom Penh Forces Capture U.N. Hostage Village

BK2712103292 Hong Kong AFP in English 1022 GMT 27 Dec 92

[Text] Phnom Penh, Dec 27 (AFP)—Phnom Penh government forces have captured the central Cambodian village of O'Sala, where 21, and then 46, U.N. peacekeepers were held hostage this month, a U.N. military official said.

A team of peacekeepers last week returned under escort by Phnom Penh government forces to the village to look for the truck the hostages had abandoned on their release, a Nissan Patrol 4x4, said the official, who is based in Kompong Thom Province.

The government forces took the village, previously controlled by the Khmer Rouge, in an offensive, he said.

The peacekeepers came under fire, apparently from the Khmer Rouge, but no one was injured, he said.

"They fired from the jungle just to scare us," he said, adding that the guerrillas' B-40 rocket-propelled grenades and AK-47s were out of firing range and missed the U.N. convoy.

After three hostage- or captive-takings in Kompong Thom this month, the Indonesian sector commander in the province issued a directive that no U.N. personnel travel in Khmer Rouge-held or disputed areas without his permission, the official said.

U.N. policy from Phnom Penh, however, is that U.N. forays into Khmer Rouge-controlled areas will not stop despite a warning from the radical faction that peacekeepers' safety could be in jeopardy.

The peacekeepers who returned to O'Sala found the truck a burned-out shell, and Phnom Penh soldiers told them Khmer Rouge guerrillas torched it as they were retreating under attack, the official said.

It was not clear whether radio or other equipment had been removed from the truck.

The peacekeepers—two U.N. military observers and 16 Indonesian soldiers—had been forced to spend the night Wednesday on their way back from the village after their mine-resistant "Wolf" vehicle hit a booby-trapped land mine and could not be immediately repaired.

The mine was rigged with dynamite and a rocket-propelled grenade that blew pieces of the Wolf's front tire hundreds of meters (yards) away and damaged the wheel house.

A second team was forced to spend Christmas Eve there Thursday when they couldn't fix it or tow it, and a third team returned to the Kompong Thom provincial capital with the Wolf on Friday after repairs were carried out, a U.N. spokesman said.

Paper's Commentary Accuses UNTAC of Unfairness

BK2812064392 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 27 Dec 92

[KAMPUCHEA commentary: "Who Is Creating a Non-neutral Atmosphere?"]

[Text] Recent murders, armed robberies, terrorist activities, and bomb attacks have greatly surprized and frightened people. The State of Cambodia [SOC] has further increased its vigilance to deal with this issue by setting up a mixed committee to prevent and repress these barbarous activities in various provinces and cities.

However, faced with this unfortunate situation, a number of political parties, which have been waiting for such an opportunity, have made a lot of noise through their protests to UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] saying that the SOC has violated human rights, carried out political terrorist activities, and intimidated and suppressed their right to carry out political activities, and so on. These parties have also raised the issue of the so-called nonneutral political atmosphere in Cambodia. The campaign [passage indistinct] most barbarously [passage indistinct] in an attempt to create unrest in crowded places and cities while the Khmer Rouge are praparing to open battlefields in Phnom Penh in order to seize power through military means.

What is taking place on both the political and military battlefields is being synchronized. In other words, the Khmer Rouge and their allies are fomenting unrest with the aim of putting the blame on the SOC, and when the situation gets very confused, this provides a good opportunity for the Khmer Rouge to seize power. It is most dangerous if we do not realize the maneuver of the Khmer Rouge and their allies who are sharing tasks to destroy the UN peace plan and topple the SOC through political and military means using human rights, fake democracy, and other unreasonable pretexts to delay the implementation of this peace agreement and prolong the people's suffering.

Is it reasonable to accuse the SOC of carrying out political terrorist activities in violation of human rights and creating a nonneutral political atmosphere? The legacy of war has left many problems for the SOC to tackle and solve. Concerning the transitional period of the implementation of the agreement, a multiparty political struggle in a situation in which there is internal rift and in which the Khmer Rouge has not implemented the accord, has further complicated the matter. Even in great democratic countries and major powers enjoying peace and a firm legal framework and police, terrorist activities, murders, and armed robberies have not yet been prevented. Can these governments be accused of human rights violations and incompetence?

At this stage and in the current situation, all Cambodian parties, UNTAC, and the international community should realize the root cause of the problem and work together to solve it because not just any one party is victim; even the SOC, which has been grossly accused, is also a vicitm. Moreover, a large number of innocent people have suffered.

Some of these terrorist activities, murders, and robberies have been carried out by the Khmer Rouge—who have not implemented the agrement—and other parties, which are the Khmer Rouge's allies, in order to foment unrest and also put the blame on the SOC.

At times, these activities were carried out by criminals, the majority of whom had been arrested and released by our state authority in accordance with the spirit of the agreement. A number of these criminals have not yet been arrested. Thus these people are robbing or killing for their own interests; there is no connection with politics.

At times, these problems are the result of an internal rift within a party, in which individuals disputed rights, power, and interests. Some parties have cheated by promising this or that. In the end, it is these parties who cheated people. For example in the case of the bomb attack against the FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] office in Pursat Province on 27 November 1992, we have received an anonymous communique claiming responsiblity for the bomb attack. It was carried out by a member of FUNCINPEC party itself because this member was angry over the party's failure to pay him. There are groups within the party and salaries ware paid only to those belonging to specified groups. This member also realized that this party is under the direct leadership of the Khmer Rouge with the majority of the leaders being former Khmer Rouge men. It was also realized that this party is full of internal rifts and disputes for power. Only those belonging to specified groups or clans have been appointed, particularly those who were former Khmer Rouge and have come from camps.

Other parties also have the same problem. Sometimes, it is just conflicts which are normal in society and among people; this is universal. These form the means for uncovering the root cause of the problem, which UNTAC, as the referee and the receiver of complaints from various parties, should clearly find out before accusing any one party. Panic resulting from a small ripe fruit falling near the back of a sleeping rabbit who thought the world had turned upside down, is sheer stupidity.

Concerning the lack of a genuinely neutral atmosphere and the violations of human rights, the Khmer Rouge are freely involved in these things, without any consideration or fear of anyone. In this connection, organizations defending human rights and various parties that have shouted about human rights, and UNTAC, seem to have remained silent. However, if there is a small incident relating to the competence and responsibility of the SOC, these people shout about it to the world.

It is just too hysterical, unjust, and stupid to superficially arrive at a conclusion without any real basis. It is even more dangerous if it is not realized what kind of situation unfortunate Cambodia is in. The process toward proper and fair elections in the future is the task of UNTAC both in the organization and supervision of the elections. Therefore, UNTAC should be standing right there on the white line at the center; look the truth squarely in the eyes; and solve the problem wisely and justly in accordance with the agreement. This is in order to achieve genuine peace.

Instigation and unfounded accusation also create a nonneutral atmosphere. The fact that Khmer Rouge are waging a war to kill people is creating a nonneutral atmosphere; it is a blatant violation of human rights and most dangerous—something UNTAC has to solve before anything else.

KR Rejects Setting Up of UNTAC Checkpoints

OW2812133892 Tokyo KYODO in English 1317 GMT 28 Dec 92

[Text] Bangkok, Dec. 28 KYODO—Khmer Rouge [KR] leader Khieu Samphan on Monday rejected a request by United Nations peacekeepers to help set up border checkpoints in Khmer Rouge areas to police U.N. economic sanctions imposed against the faction.

His rejection was conveyed to Thai Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri during a meeting in Bangkok.

During the meeting, Khieu reaffirmed his faction's demand that the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) implement what he called the genuine essence of the Paris peace accord as a condition before the group will cooperate further with UNTAC, he told reporters.

He said the UNTAC mission has failed its mandate in the accord by not seriously addressing to the Khmer Rouge's two allegations.

The Khmer Rouge, in refusing to abide by the peace process directed by UNTAC, alleges that there still are Vietnamese forces in Cambodia and the Supreme National Council (SNC), the national reconciliation body of Cambodia, was not functional.

The U.N. decided to impose economic sanctions against the faction starting in February until it rejoins the peace process. The sanctions bar imports of petroleum products and exports of natural resources from Khmer Rouge zones.

Khieu gave the faction's first public comment on the sanctions, saying, "It's strange. Why has the U.N. imposed the sanctions against the Democratic Kampuchea (the Khmer Rouge's official name) who have long been fighting to liberate the country from the Vietnamese aggression forces?"

The Thai foreign minister arranged the meeting with Khieu as UNTAC prepares to implement the sanctions.

UNTAC military chief Lt. Gen. John Sanderson has asked for Thailand's help in securing the Khmer Rouge's cooperation in setting up the border checkpoints in its zones.

Thailand has ordered the closure of all Thai-Cambodian border contact points, beginning January 1, to halt imports of timber from Cambodia, as requested in a Supreme National Council (SNC) resolution.

Prasong said after the meeting that although Khieu was still firm on the faction's defiant stance against the peace process, he did have some hope that the stalemate could somehow be ended.

"I told him that it's the Cambodian people who suffer most under this situation and the four factions must talk among themselves to find a breakthrough to this stalemate," Prasong said.

The two agreed to meet again to continue the talks.

UN Reports 'Small-Scale' Cease-Fire Violations

BK2812093892 Hong Kong AFP in English 0857 GMT 28 Dec 92

[Text] Phnom Penh, Dec 28 (AFP)—The United Nations reported Monday various ceasefire violations, the bombing of a political party office and the attempted sabotage of one of Cambodia's only functioning railroad lines.

In the northwestern province of Battambang, UN personnel discovered four mines laid along the railroad tracks used to repatriate thousands of Cambodian refugees from camps on the Thai border, UN spokesman Eric Falt said.

The anti-personnel mines would have disrupted train service had they detonated, but the refugee train, called the "Sisophon Express," was due to arrive on schedule Monday with 1,200 people aboard, he said.

Members of the Malaysian UN contingent based in Battambang will regularly check the tracks from now on, Falt said.

The mines were laid not far from where gunfire had been heard, he said.

Also in the same province early Monday, a rocket attack on the office of FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia]—the party loyal to Prince Norodom Sihanouk—killed two party workers, Falt said.

The fate of the other four was not immediately known.

FUNCINPEC, which refuses to join a political alliance with the Phnom Penh regime, has been the target of numerous attacks throughout the country in recent weeks.

The United Nations has called on Phnom Penh officials to halt the violence, but state-run radio and television broadcasts blame bandits and the Khmer Rouge for all politically-related killings.

In Bavel District, also in Battambang Province, thousands of Cambodians displaced by recent fighting have moved to settlement sites where they were being fed by UN assistance programs organized by the World Food Programme and the Red Cross.

Plastic shelters were provided for 4,000 families, and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) was bringing in equipment from Thailand to supply fresh drinking water, Falt said.

In central Siem Reap Province, where UN personnel had spent nights in bunkers after Khmer Rouge shelled the area, Falt reported the situation as calm.

But in the mortar shelling from Thursday through Saturday, about 20 rounds landed as close as 20 meters (yards) from the camp of the Bangladeshis serving with the United Nations, he said.

Three UN electoral registration workers and two UN civilian police were evacuated, leaving the Bangladeshis there with "high morale," Falt said.

In central Kompong Thom Province, artillery exchanges continued between Khmer Rouge and Phnom Penh government forces near Sala Vichey, Falt said.

Despite a ceasefire agreement and the official end to the Cambodian civil war concluded in October 1991, constant low-scale fighting is reported between Khmer Rouge guerrillas and Phnom Penh forces throughout the country.

There have been more than 1,500 ceasefire violations since the ceasefire agreement reached in Thailand earlier in 1991, UN deputy force commander Brigadier General Robert Rideau said.

"But these are small-scale, not big ceasefire violations," he said in an interview.

UN personnel have been advised to take measures to protect themselves, including sitting on flak jackets when flying in helicopters—which are often fired upon—and digging bunkers and trenches at their bases, Rideau said.

"I have asked them to be vigilant," he said.

14 Ethnic Vietnamese 'Believed' Killed by KR

BK2812163292 Hong Kong AFP in English 1531 GMT 28 Dec 92

[Text] Phnom Penh, Dec 28 (AFP)—Soldiers believed to be Khmer Rouge [KR] guerrillas have massacred 14 fishermen along the Tonle Sap River in central Cambodia, the UN spokesman here said Monday.

The fishermen were believed to be all ethnic Vietnamese, a group that has been targetted for racial violence in Cambodia in recent months.

Another 14 were injured in the nighttime attack Sunday, and six of them were hospitalized, spokesman Eric Falt said.

Their genders and ages were not immediately known.

"The first reports would seem to indicate that it was the NADK," or National Army of Democratic Kampuchea, as the Khmer Rouge is known, Falt said.

The massacre occurred in Kompong Tralach village in the central Cambodian province of Kompong Chhnang, Falt said.

The death toll was the highest reported so far in a recent spate of anti-Vietnamese violence.

In July, eight ethnic Vietnamese—including a week-old baby—were murdered by the Khmer Rouge in the southern village of Tuk Meas.

The massacre was the first reported in a series of race-related violent acts committed by the Khmer Rouge.

Last week, the bodies of three Vietnamese fishermen were found tied together, their throats slit, and floating down the Mekong River.

The Khmer Rouge had prevented UN personnel from retrieving the bodies, Falt said.

Khmer Rouge Letter Warns of Death to Vietnamese

BK2912095492 Hong Kong AFP in English 0915 GMT 29 Dec 92

[Text] Phum Taches, Cambodia, Dec 29 (AFP)—A crudely written leaflet left at the scene of a massacre of ethnic Vietnamese in this central Cambodian village warns of death to all those who collaborate with the Vietnamese.

The letter sent a strong message to U.N. peacekeeping chief Yasushi Akashi, asking him to rid Cambodia of its hundreds of thousands of Vietnamese immigrants.

"Akashi, do not cooperate with the Yuon to kill the Cambodian people!" it said, using the derogatory word "Yuon" for ethnic Vietnamese.

"All Yuon soldiers must leave Cambodia to let the Khmer people manage their country themselves!" it said. "All the (Cambodian) puppets must stop serving the Vietnamese political invasion. Stop serving with the Yuon. Be careful or you will be killed!"

It said the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) must rid the country of "all categories of Vietnamese forces who pretend to be Vietnamese civilians and business people."

The radical Khmer Rouge have refused to cooperate with UNTAC, which is trying to implement a peace plan ending the civil war, justifying their intransigence by claiming that Vietnamese forces remain in Cambodia.

Hanoi says all troops who invaded to oust the Khmer Rouge in 1979 left 10 years later and have never returned.

But the Khmer Rouge continually counter that the forces are disguised as civilians and fishermen. Khmer Rouge guerrillas have carried out a number of massacres of ethnic Vietnamese since July, according to U.N. officials.

UNTAC has investigated several sightings of Vietnamese forces and has found no conclusive evidence that any remain inside Cambodia's borders.

Son Sann Pleads for Peace in Letter to Akashi

BK2912012192 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 29 Dec 92 p 9

[Text] Former Cambodian Prime Minister Son Sann has called on the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) to put an end to the continued fighting among rival factions in the country struggling towards peace.

"Allowing two Cambodian parties to take up arms, mobilise and make war among themselves is to head towards a point of no return, for the greatest misery of the Cambodian people," he said in a letter to UNTAC chief Yasushi Akashi, the text of which was released here yesterday. The Cambodian elder politician stopped short of naming the Khmer Rouge and Phnom Penh forces who recently clashed in Battambang in the northwest and Kompong Thom in the central region.

Mr Son Sann is a member of the four-party Supreme National Council (SNC) of Cambodia that is mandated by the 1991 Paris peace agreement to play a consultative role with UNTAC. The Khmer Rouge, Phnom Penh and Sihanoukists are also represented on the SNC.

Mr Son Sann also heads the Buddhist Liberal Democratic Party (BLDP), one of about 20 parties registered to contest general elections UNTAC plans to organise in Cambodia by next May.

"To tolerate the existence in Cambodia of such a substantial 'Vietnamese force' that is more or less armed, and seeks the right to vote in the upcoming elections, is not assuring a serene neutral and fair atmosphere for these elections," he said.

Uch Kim-an Expresses Regret Over Rocket Attack

BK2912125192 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1100 GMT 29 Dec 92

[Text] On the morning of 29 December in an international hotel, Uch Kim-an, deputy minister of the Council of Ministers office and government spokesman, and General Pan Thai, adviser to the Prime Minister of the State of Cambodia [SOC], held a weekly news conference with the participation of local and foreign reporters and television teams.

Uch Kim-an expressed great regret over the rocket attack against the FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] party office in Ratanamondol district, Battambang Province, near the Pailin area, in which two people were killed. Ratanamondol District is an area the Khmer Rouge usually shell; about 20 percent of our people in the area have already fled.

Concerning the military situation, Uch Kim-an stressed that the Khmer Rouge continue to shell and attack areas in Kompong Thom and Siem Reap Provinces. They continue to seize territory, thus reducing the area controlled by the SOC. This will affect the election. If the Khmer Rouge continue similar activities, UNTAC [United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia] cannot conduct poll registration and the number of registered people will be reduced. This will affect the election results. For this reason, the SOC has to maintain military stability.

Uch Kim-an further said that this week in Tbong Khmum District, Kompong Cham Province, about 100 Khmer Rouge soldiers abducted the militia chief of Roka Pou Pram village. We still do not know the fate of the victim.

Uch Kim-an recalled the article by AFP quoting an UNTAC spokesman as saying that Phnom Penh government troops have seized O Sala area, which was previously under Khmer Rouge control. Uch Kim-an considered this misleading. The fact is that the O Sala area is under SOC control; however, following the signing of the agreement, the Khmer Rouge had occupied the area. For this reason, we exercised the right to self-defense and retook the area. UNTAC is well aware of this.

Another issue AFP has inappropriately handled is the report that violent activities said to be politically motivated occurring over the past few weeks are the result of the noncooperation of FUNCINPEC with the SOC. Uch Kim-an stressed that this statement is irresponsible. It is not objective; if this is the way reporters work, it cannot help create a neutral political atmosphere.

Speaking to reporters attending the news conference, Uch Kim-an specified that the agreement between FUNCINPEC and the SOC, signed last year, is still valid. We have not done anything to affect this alliance. Uch Kim-an added that after the election, the SOC will continue to make alliances with parties that have joined us, particularly with FUNCINPEC, to set up a new government. This is the essence of the national reconciliation policy of the SOC Government in our Cambodian people's interest.

Also speaking to reporters on the occasion, General Pan Thai pointed out that this week the Khmer Rouge continue to shell and launch serious attacks against the SOC. On 25 December, the Khmer Rouge attacked and seized Sre Noy, Lvea, and Kouk Dong villages in Srei Snam District, Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey Province; three people were killed and another wounded.

On 26 December, the Khmer Rouge attacked Choam Sangke village in Phnum Sruoch District, Kompong Speu Province; four SOC soldiers were killed and eight wounded. On 24 December the Khmer Rouge shelled Stoung District, killing two of our policemen; three people were also wounded.

General Pan Thai further stressed that presently the military situation of Division 6 in Bavel district, Battambang Province, remains serious due to continuing Khmer Rouge shelling.

Laos

Documents on Japanese Aid Grant Signed 20 Dec

BK2712133592 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 23 Dec 92

[Text] The signing of exchange documents on Japanese Government aid grant to Laos for clearing of debt from the construction of the Nam Ngum Reservoir project and the handing over of a second fund worth a total of 97.781 million yen to the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR]—the fund for the last part of 1992—was performed at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 20 December.

The LPDR Government will use the funds to buy goods necessary for improving the living conditions of the Lao people.

Acting on behalf of the Lao Government was Soubanh Salitthilat, deputy foreign minister, while the Japanese Government was represented by Shigemi Ando, Japanese ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Laos. Witnessing the occasion were high-ranking Lao officials from various agencies concerned and officials from the Japanese Embassy.

Similar assistance from the Japanese Government to Laos was given once before in July this year.

Government Recognizes Czech, Slovak Republics

BK3012070792 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 30 Dec 92

["Statement" issued by Foreign Affairs Ministry of the Lao People's Democratic Republic—dated 28 December 1992]

[Text] The Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR] has closely followed the change of the situation in the Czech and Slovak republics, in particular the separation of the former Czech and Slovak Federal Republic into two countries—the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic—which will take effect on 1 January 1993. The LPDR Government is of the view that the separation into the two countries of the former Czech and Slovak Federal Republic is appropriate as it conforms to the aspirations of the Czech and Slovak peoples and the practical conditions of the two countries as well as to the UN charters. The LPDR Government also maintains that the separation into the two countries of the former Czech and Slovak Federal Republic also serves the interest of peace, stability, and cooperation in the region and the world.

The LPDR Government, therefore, hereby announces an official recognition of the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic. The LPDR Government pledges to continue to fulfill its obligations towards the two countries.

President Thanks Boris Yeltsin for Greetings

BK2912045092 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 22 Dec 92

["Recent" message of thanks from Nouhak Phoumsavan, president of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, to Boris Yeltsin, president of the Russian Federation]

[Text] I would like to express sincere thanks to Your Excellency for the greetings that you have extended to me on the occasion of the 17th anniversary of the Lao People's Democratic Republic. I am convinced that the already fine traditional relations of friendship and cooperation between our two countries and two peoples of Laos and Russia will be further developed for the benefits of the peoples of our two countries and in the interest of world peace and security.

I wish Your Excellency good health and happiness.

Message Marks SRV Army Anniversary

BK3012113192 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0430 GMT 23 Dec 92

[Message from Lieutenant General Osakan Thammatheva, head of the General Political Department of the Lao People's Army, to Lieutenant General Le Kha Phieu, head of the General Political Department of the Vietnam People's Army—date not given]

[Text] Respected Comrade Lieutenant General: On the 48th founding anniversary of the Vietnam People's Army [VPA], on behalf of all cadres and combatants of the party and political work sector in the entire Lao People's Army [LPA] and in my own name, I convey greetings and best wishes to you, comrade, and through you, to all cadres and combatants in the entire fraternal VPA.

Over the past 48 years, under the leadership of the Communist Party of Vietnam, with the determination to maintain, promote, and expand the fine traditions and true nature of Uncle Ho Chi Minh's soldiers, the VPA has built and defended its socialist country to become ever wealthier and stronger. It has successfully fulfilled its lofty international obligations, thereby raising SRV's prestige and influence to a higher level in the international arena.

We are elated at the great and firm achievements of the fraternal Vietnamese army and people. On this occasion, we wish the fraternal Vietnamese VPA, new, still greater achievements in implementing the spirit and contents of the seventh CPV congress resolutions. May the special friendship and all-round cooperation between the two nations and armies, in particular between the two army general political departments, be everlasting and fruitful! We wish you, comrade Lieutenant general, good health, new success in performing your noble tasks, and happiness with your family.

PASASON Discusses Water Shortage Problems

BK3012094392 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 28 Dec 92

[Undated PASASON article]

[Text] Our country is a less developed nation. Most of the population lives in rural areas and rely on rivers, streams and wells for water in their daily livelihood. Due to the destruction of the natural environment, subsequent droughts, and water contamination, the use of water from these sources has become problematic every passing day. If no improvements are made, it will be difficult to prevent the outbreak of diseases among those who are forced to use unclean water for consumption and face water shortage in some localities.

Our government, being aware of the severity of the problem, has in the past years spent a considerable amount of money to build tap water distribution systems in big townships. Efforts are being made to search for clean water sources for townships in the mountainous northern region and to drill more artesian wells for the lowland people in the central and southern regions where water shortage has become an annual phenomenon. In any event, we will have to continue with our efforts to provide clean water for the people nationwide although this task will take a long time to be completed.

One of the projects being implemented by the Lao Water Works Company from 1990 to 2000 is the construction of the tap water distribution system in Hat Saifong District of Vientiane Municipality. The project, implemented through technical cooperation between the Lao and French governments, was kicked off in [word indistinct] and is now 40 percent completed. In the next few months, this project will help provide some 600 cubic meters of clean water to over 6,000 people in Tha Doua and Tha Naleng areas daily. The people in the said vicinity will be able to drink water from the tap. Their living standard will therefore be higher than that of their compatriots in other places.

It is necessary to expand the tap water distribution systems in all localities. However, the top priority is the provision of clean water to people in rural areas, especially highlanders who will confront water shortages every year. Not any particular organization but the entire society and the administrative bodies at all levels must be responsible for this matter. They are obliged to find ways and means to help the people.

Meanwhile, the people in towns where tap water is available must use water frugally and pay all their water bills in a timely manner so that agencies concerned will have sufficient funds to finance the expansion of the tap water distribution system to cover all townships and villages nationwide.

BCP Opens 15 Gas Stations, Preempts Thai PTT

BK2812034592 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 28 Dec 92 p 18

[Text] Bangchak Petroleum Co (BCP), the state-owned oil refiner, is opening 15 petrol stations in Laos in a surprise move seen to preempt the Petroleum Authority of Thailand's (PTT) attempt to establish a substantial retail oil business in that country.

BCP president Sophon Suphaphong announced the move during the weekend as he talked about the company's objective of capturing one-third of the market in Vientiane, Laos' largest oil market, by the end of 1993.

The first 15 petrol stations will be in Vientiane and Suvannakhet in Laos' central region. These stations, jointly owned by BCP and the Laotian private sector, are due to start operations in stages next month.

BCP is also setting up a representative office and an oil depot with one million-litre storage capacity in Vientiane to support its business plan there. These facilities are scheduled to be operational next month.

By doing so, BCP becomes the first Thai oil firm to operate a retail oil business in Laos. These petrol stations will carry the BCP logo featuring a green leaf in a square frame and get oil products processed from the company's oil refinery in Bangkok.

BCP's move to set up petrol stations in Laos came as a surprise as the state-owned oil refiner' future business plan concentrates on building up the retail oil business in Thailand.

Its entry to the Laotian oil market may spark a race with the PTT, the national oil firm which owns 30 percent of BCP and has been actively pursuing a programme to set up petrol stations in Laos, industry sources said.

In the past two years, BCP, whose management is not in good terms with PTT executives, has been shifting its role as an oil refiner to marketer in direct competition with the PTT and other oil firms in Thailand.

In December alone, BCP opened 20 petrol stations in Thailand.

Philippines

Kidnapers Free U.S. Missionary; No Ransom Paid

HK3012012092 Hong Kong AFP in English 0031 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Text] Zamboanga, Philippines, Dec 30 (AFP)—Moslem bandits have freed unharmed a kidnapped American Roman Catholic missionary from more than two months of jungle captivity, a military official said here Wednesday [30 December]. Augustine Frazczack, 38, was freed late Tuesday [29 December] without payment of a five million peso (200,000 dollar) ransom after being held since October 22 in the jungles of the nearby island of Basilan, Brigadier General Antonio Villamor told reporters.

The Basilan marine brigade commander gave no further details. The missionary was abducted while conducting community work with Yakan tribesmen in Basilan. His kidnappers, allegedly former Moslem separatists, had threatened to kill him on Christmas Day if the ransom was not paid.

Release Confirmed

HK3012035292 Hong Kong AFP in English 0319 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Text] Zamboanga, Philippines, Dec 30 (AFP)—A Roman Catholic missionary from the United States has been freed unharmed more than two months after he was kidnapped for ransom on the southern island of Basilan, government and church officials said Wednesday. Augustine Frazczack, 38, of Chicago, was released Tuesday despite the church's refusal to pay a five million peso (200,000 dollar) ransom, marine Brigadier General Antonio Villamor told reporters.

(In Manila, Interior Secretary Rafael Alunan and the Franciscan order confirmed that Frazczack had been freed. They gave no details.)

The missionary, engaged in social work with Yakan tribesmen in the hinterlands of Basilan since 1986, was abducted October 22 by suspected former Moslem separatists. They had threatened to execute him on Christmas Day unless the church or the U.S. embassy in Manila paid his ransom.

Kidnap-for-ransom gangs operate with near impunity in the southern Philippines, home to six million Moslems who fought an unsuccessful war for secession two decades ago. Wealthy Chinese-Filipino traders have been the main victims.

(In Manila, the Franciscan friars in a statement thanked "the many people who helped to facilitate the release of Brother Gus without violence."

(But the order also demanded an official investigation into the abduction, and called on the government to end the "social and economic roots of the crime of kidnapping."

("We wish to express our hope that all other kidnap victims will soon regain their freedom and we pray that the crime of kidnapping will cease throughout the Philippines," said the statement, signed by vicar provincial Gene Pastidio.

("The most important step toward eliminating the crime of kidnapping is to improve the social and economic conditions of Basilan," it added.

(The Franciscans demanded that "high-ranking officials of the local police and government" be investigated for allegedly spreading false information to the Philippine press that Frazczack had not been kidnapped in the first place, but had gone voluntarily with the bandits.)

Ramos Praises Release

HK3012045092 Quezon City ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corporation DZMM in Tagalog 0400 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Text] American missionary Augustine Frazczack, who was held captive by the Moro National Liberation Front's Lost Command for over two months, is now a free man. A report has indicated that Frazczack was freed in Laki, in the town of Tipo-Tipo in Basilan, last night. The missionary is scheduled to arrive at the Villamor Air Base at 1230 today.

Brigadier General Antonio Villamor, Philippine Marines commanding general, said that only two sacks of rice were given to the kidnapers in exchange for the missionary's release. It will be recalled that the kidnapers demanded a 5-million-peso ransom for the victim's freedom. The missionary was freed through the intercession of Joey Tugon, son of Basilan Congresswoman Elderita Tugong.

Meanwhile, President Ramos has expressed his joy over the release of the American missionary. At the same time, he praised Joey Tugong for leading the negotiations for Frazczack's release. The president also lauded Local and Government Secretary Rafael Alunan, who went to Basilan to personally carry out the president's order for the release of the missionary. Chief Superintendent Job Mayo of the Philippine National Police, General Antonio Villamor, and General Romeo Zulueta were also commended.

Missionary Arrives in Manila

HK3012101792 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Text] The American missionary released earlier without conditions or ransom money by a Moro National Liberation Front [MNLF] lost command group which kidnapped him two months ago arrived at the Villamor Air Base [Philippine Air Force headquarters in Manila] this afternoon.

Franciscan missionary Augustine Frazczack, also known as Brother Gus, was accompanied by Brigadier General Antonio Villamor, commanding general of the 3d Marine Brigade assigned to the Southern Philippines. They arrived aboard an Air Force Fokker F-27 at about 1320 from Zamboanga City.

Major General Romeo S. Acot Jr., Air Force chief, and Philippine National Police Director Domondon met the American missionary at the air base.

The medical missionary did not issue an arrival statement. He walked straight from the plane to a waiting private car. Before he was kidnaped by an MNLF lost command group, Frazczack was helping provide medical care to Yakan tribesmen in Basilan. The missionary was kidnaped 22 October and remained in detention for two months. He was released without any ransom being paid.

[Begin Villamor recording in English] He was released to us unconditionally—without any conditions. We have identified some of the kidnapers. We will identify all of them and in accordance with the directive I received last night from commander, Southern Command and from the highest military authority, we are going on a military and police action. This is a group led by a certain Rolly Calajal, an MNLF lost command group, so they say. [end recording]

De Villa Warns Rebels on 'Inflexible Positions'

HK3012030292 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 30 Dec 92 p 10

[Text] Defense Secretary and National Unification Commission (NUC) commissioner Renato S. de Villa yesterday warned Utrecht based insurgent leaders not to push Government against the wall by persistently advocating inflexible positions. "The NUC at a certain point in time will have to make a determination whether it should continue to deal with the people in Utrecht because we have a limited time to complete our work and it may not be finished if we keep on waiting," he said. "Our time frame is good only up to March 16 and time is running. So, at a certain point in time, the NUC probably has to make certain decisions in terms of the direction of each pursuit of dialogue and negotiations."

He added alleged communist party chairman Jose Ma. Sison, who has constantly voiced his skepticism on the current peace process, may be preempted by dissenting party cadres and local insurgent commanders who have been more forthcoming towards Government's peace overtures. "The position of the NUC is that we will continue to press and pursue the peace process wherever it brings us to. But as much as possible, it is our policy that we will deal with the institutional or national leadership of the rebellious groups," he said. "However, we also say that it should not inhibit us from dealing with other groups who may want to deal with us. In other words, we are not shutting the door to any other group who might want to deal directly with us."

Moreover, the defense secretary said Government's resolve to see through the peace process would not be deterred by the insurgent movement's worsening factionalism. "I think the rift that has been admitted by the left creates both problems and opportunities," he said. "You might say that we recognize both the problem and the opportunity."

"Since we are committed to dealing with them, it creates a problem because there is an attitude problem that is developing on their side," Mr. de Villa remarked. "There is also a very real physical problem of being unable to meet because of this attitude problem."

He added that the party's current factionalism has complicated matters since Government would not be able to resolve the conflict definitively by dealing with only one group which may not enjoy the confidence of another faction. "Let's view it this way, very simplistically; If you agree with one faction, and the other faction does not agree, then we still have a fight going on," he explained.

Nevertheless, he disclosed two specific opportunities Government may be able to capitalize on, given this situation. "The opportunity here is that, if we cannot talk abroad, then we perhaps can settle the problem in our country and leave these people abroad by themselves. (Mr. Sison's skepticism) also indicates to us how far we can go with them and what should be our next move in case we get stonewalled or we get blocked in that direction."

CPP Leaders Given Safe Conduct Talks Passes

HK3012030092 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 30 Dec pp 1, 6

[Text] Five leaders of the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army (CPP-NPA) have secured safe conduct passes from the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) in the Cordillera region to participate in the peace negotiations, military sources said yesterday. Sources said that Leo Velasco, head of the CPP-NPA Northern Luzon Commission (NLC), and his wife Elizabeth Principe, a regular member of the Cordillera Regional Committee (CRC), have expressed their intention to join the peace talks with local military commanders. Both Velasco and Principe carry P500,000 [Philippine pesos] cash reward each as offered by the Department of National Defense (DND).

Others who were issued safe conduct passes by Cordillera military authorities were Jovencio Balweg, also a CRC member; Mario Baawa, an official of the CPP-NPA Abra Provincial Yunit Guerilla (PYG); and Domingo Tarectecan of the Zambales-Pangasinan PYG. Balweg is the brother of former rebel priest Conrado Balweg who now heads the Cordillera People's Liberation Army (CPLA). Fr. [Father] Balweg, a former NPA commander who led series of ambuscades against AFP troopers, has abandoned the communist ideology and is now working with the government in promoting socio-economic projects in the Cordilleras.

The National Unification Commission (NUC) has encouraged local military and government officials to pursue peace negotiations with rebel leaders in their respective localities. Military sources said that the five key rebel leaders contacted Army officials in Cordillera through their emissaries and expressed their intention to join the peace talks. Sources added that Velasco and his comrades appeared disgusted over the worsening rift among the top CPP-NPA hierarchy which has already resulted to the demoralization of the rank and file in the communist movement.

The planned surfacing of the five rebel leaders is being arranged solely by military officials without the participation of local government executives in the area, sources said. Military authorities said that Velasco's group did not press for any demand as a precondition for the holding of the exploratory talks.

Sison Faction Clamps Down on 'Revisionists'

HK2812123092 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 27 Dec 92 pp 1, 6

[Report by Manny Mogato]

[Text] Communist rebel leaders closely identified with Jose Ma. Sison have begun to crack the whip on defiant followers, a further indication of the growing split within the leftist movement, military sources said yesterday.

The rebels' executive committee (execom), which is controlled by cadres loyal to Sison, the self-exiled founder of the Communist Party of the Philippines [CPP], has threatened to suspend and expel leading comrades in the Manila-Rizal regional party committee (MRRPC) for deviating from the party line and for defying the rebels' new three-year political campaign plan, the sources said.

The MRRPC is identified with the rival camp of Romulo Kintanar, former chief of the New People's Army [NPA].

Camp Aguinaldo said the power struggle could lead to another bloody purge in the communist movement, which celebrated its 24th anniversary yesterday.

No particular group is in complete control of the rebel forces, although the military felt that Sison's faction, composed of Maoist hardliners, has gained the upper hand over the "revisionist" faction made of guerrilla tacticians.

Sison's strength was provided by his allies in the executive committee, who allegedly maneuvered his election as CPP chairman during a plenum in Bicol four months ago, the sources said.

Sison also counts support from guerrilla leaders in Luzon, where six of the NPA's 19 regular companies operate.

But his command is being challenged by cadres and guerrilla leaders' based in the Visayas and Mindanao.

A classified military report has identified the leading rebel cadres allied to and opposed to Sison's leadership. Among those allied to Sison and considered as "fundamentalists" are:

—Benito and Wilma Austria Tiamzon, both members of the execom and erstwhile chairman and finance officer, respectively, of the communist movement.

—Leo Velasco, head of the northern Luzon commission and suspected head of the movement's military forces after the capture of Romulo Kintanar a year ago.

—Elizabeth Principe, head of the rebel forces in the Cordillera region.

—Armando Tengh, the head of the southern Luzon commission.

—Alan Jazmines, the head of the southern Tagalog regional party committee (STRPC).

—Satur Ocampo, the former head of the National Democratic Front (NDF), although he has been keeping and projecting a more neutral position on the issue.

—Other leading cadres based in Central Luzon.

The "revisionists" are

—Kintanar,

—Ricardo Reyes, former central committee member.

—Benjamin de Vera, former head of the Mindanao commission.

—Felimon Lagman, head of the MRRPC and former head of the Alex Boncayao Brigade.

—Nilo de la Cruz, the head of the Alex Boncayao Brigade and prime suspect in the killing of U.S. Army Colonel James Rowe.

—Arturo Tabara, head of the Visayas commission.

—Antonio Cabanatan, central committee member based in Mindanao.

—Prudencio Calubid, head of the Mindanao commission.

—Manjet Manalo, leading cadre of the united front commission.

—Rodolfo Salas, alias Kumander Bilog, former CPP chairman.

—Leading guerrilla leaders of the NPA General Command (GC).

A military intelligence report says Sison enjoys the support only of rebel leaders in Luzon, except Metro Manila, where most cadres and guerrilla members support the "revisionists," which command more forces based in the Visayas and Mindanao.

Both Visayas and Mindanao have a total of 13 NPA companies, eight of which are on Samar, Negros and Panay islands.

The revisionists may have the numbers, but the fundamentalists control the top positions in the movement, the military documents said.

The split was exposed after Kintanar's group had openly criticized Sison's election as party chairman during the Bicol plenum.

To dramatize their defiance of Sison's new directive contained in the new three-year political campaign plan, the MRRPC implemented its "Oplan Buwal [Operation Plan Topple]" in Metro Manila, a violation of Sison's Maoist doctrines of waging an armed struggle that calls for the encircling of the city from the countryside.

The Kintamar group has embraced the Nicaraguan model of urban-based insurrection.

Any of the groups can launch a bloody purge once it takes complete command of the insurgent forces.

A purge in late 1980s had resulted in the killing in Southern Luzon of about a thousand rebels suspected to be government agents.

Several mass graves of purge victims were discovered in Quezon and Laguna.

The rebels later admitted the purge was a mistake. As a result, cadres, like Miel Laurenalia, who headed the STRPC area, were demoted and transferred to other areas.

Sugar Industry Leader: NAFTA Threatens Quota

HK2912135692 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 29 Dec 92

[Text] Jomari Montinola, president of the Confederation of Sugar Producers' Associations, today said U.S. President George Bush has signed the North Atlantic Free Trade Agreement [NAFTA], prompting the Philippines and 39 other countries exporting sugar to the United States to intensify their lobbying in Congress to amend the agreement.

Montinola said that although Bush signed NAFTA this month, he expects it to have amendments. Also lobbying against NAFTA are U.S. sugar farmers.

He explained that if NAFTA were approved by the U.S. Congress in its present form, the Philippines and 39 other countries would lose their shares of the U.S. sugar quota. U.S. sugar farmers will also face competition from cheaper sugar from Mexico, which could flood the U.S. market because of the agreement.

Montinola said the Philippine share of the U.S. sugar quota amounts to 178,000 metric tons this year. He added that he believes NAFTA will be amended due to the strong lobby by U.S. sugar farmers and the kind of officials who will be appointed by U.S. President-elect Bill Clinton.

Sector Representatives in Lower House Named

HK2912135592 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 1100 GMT 29 Dec 92

[Text] President Ramos has appointed the representatives of the labor, peasant, and elderly sectors in the Lower House of Congress. Presidential Spokesperson Annabelle Tecson Abaya said the appointments were based on recommendations of various sectors who really know these people.

For the labor sector, the president appointed Zoilo de la Cruz, Ramon Jabar, and Alejandro Villavisa. De La Cruz is at present vice president and treasurer of the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines, while Jabar has been trade union leader since 1954 and Villavisa was the labor sector representative in the Eighth Congress.

For the peasant sector, the president named Vicente Tagle, Leonardo Montemayor, and Attorney Josefina Garcia Se. Tagle is a newspaperman who is active in various farmers' organizations, while Montemayor is a former officer of various organizations and councils on agricultural labor, and Attorney Garcia Se had been the chairperson of the Commission of the Settlement of Land Problems.

For the elderly sector, President Ramos appointed Dr. Minerva Laudico, an active member of several civic groups in the country.

Thailand

Loggers To Stay in Cambodia After Border Closes

BK3012031792 Bangkok THE NATION in English 30 Dec 92 p A2

[Excerpt] Some 4,000 Thai logging company workers will remain in Khmer Rouge-controlled territory after Thailand seals its border to prevent timber imports from Cambodia on Friday [31 December] in compliance with the United Nations sanctions against the Marxist faction, sources said.

The sources said the workers intended to wait for Cambodia's Supreme National Council to hold a meeting after Friday's deadline, hoping that it will respond positively to the Thai Government's request for a new deadline to allow Thai loggers more time in which to move logs across the border into Thailand.

"At least 4,000 Thai logging company workers will stay and wait," one of the sources said.

The sources said several Thai logging companies would suffer huge losses because there was not enough time to move their timber out of the Khmer Rouge-controlled territory before the deadline this week.

Deteriorating road conditions are making it more difficult to move the timber into Thailand despite permission from Thai authorities for them to work around the clock, they said.

Earlier, the House committee on labour and public welfare asked the government to set up a reception centre to accommodate tens of thousands of Thai workers involved in logging and gem-mining in Khmer Rouge-controlled areas who wanted to return before the deadline.

The House committee said there was an estimated 60,000 Thai workers in the logging and gem-mining area controlled by the Khmer Rouge.

Last Tuesday, the Cabinet decided to comply with the UN economic sanctions against the Khmer Rouge after having balked at the idea in order to protect the interests of Thai businessmen. The government instructed the Interior Ministry to supervise policing of the area to prevent log smuggling from Cambodia.

The Supreme National Council [SNC] in Phnom Penh imposed the timber export ban earlier this month and it was endorsed by the UN Security Council recently. The Security Council is also seeking cooperation from Thailand to implement an oil embargo against the Khmer Rouge to pressure the radical faction to return to the peace process.

The Security Council has also recommended that the SNC consider banning the export of gemstones. [passage omitted]

Border Checkpoints in 4 Provinces To Close

BK3012102392 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 0530 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Text] Major General Prasoet Phakcharoen, commander of the 6th Infantry Division and Suranari Task Force, announced in Surin Province the closure of eight temporary Thai-Cambodian border checkpoints in the four provinces of Ubon Ratchathani, Sisaket, Buriram, and Surin. As of 31 December, all transit goods will be banned from entering or exiting the checkpoints. Meanwhile, two temporary border points will remain open. The commander of the Suranari Task Force gave the following details on the border closure to the Public Relations Department's correspondent based in Surin Province.

[Begin Prasoet recording] Eight border checkpoints will be closed as of 31 December. They are: Chong Ban Sai Kosot in Buriram Province; Chong Klang, Chong Kot Klang, Chong Chom, and Chong Phrik in Surin Province; Chong Sa-ngam, and Chong Phra Phalai in Sisaket Province; and Chong An Ma in Ubon Ratchathani Province. However, two checkpoints will be remain open; they are the trading checkpoint at Chong An Ma in Ubon Ratchathani Province, and the tourist checkpoint at Khao Preah Vihear in Sisaket Province. After 31 December, all categories of goods are banned from transiting at any of these eight checkpoints mentioned above, pending the cabinet decision on the National Security Council proposal to exempt certain categories of goods and to be lenient to logging companies still moving their men and machine tools into the country after 31 December. [end recording]

Cabinet Approves Tariff Cut for ASEAN Goods

BK3012033992 Bangkok THE NATION in English 30 Dec 92 p B1

[Text] The Cabinet yesterday approved the Finance Ministry's proposal to cut tariffs on more than 1,000 Asean manufactured imports to 30 per cent from Feb 16 next year. The move is part of the country's unilateral effort under the Asean Free Trade Area (Afta) programme.

Reduced tariffs will apply to items with at least 40 per cent Asean content, imported from neighbouring Asean countries. The proposed items for the cuts do not include petrochemical products or products on the country's exclusion list proposed to Afta.

Former Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun committed Thailand to the unilateral cuts when he attended the Asean leaders' summit in Singapore in January this year. Anan's pledge was for Thailand to lower tariffs on Asean manufactured imports currently subject to more than 30 per cent import duty, to less than 30 per cent.

The former premier's announcement implied that virtually all manufactured goods would be subject to 30 per cent or lower tariffs, but the Chuan administration's decision would apparently give some concessions to domestic industries.

Finance Minister Tharin Nimmanhemin said the administration decided not to include petrochemicals or items on the Afta exclusion list, because the industries have comparatively high costs. Their prevailing competitiveness would not justify immediate tariff action.

In the future, there will be adjustments to the decision, but protection remains important at the moment.

Tariffs on petrochemicals, which currently vary from 40 to 60 per cent will remain intact. Thailand has proposed that petrochemicals be moved from the programme's 'fast track' to the normal track—due for implementation within 15 years.

Maximum tariffs on that deadline will be 5 per cent.

Finance Minister Tharin said the unilateral tariff cuts approved by Cabinet will cost the government an annual Bt [baht] 260 million in tax revenue, but the benefits will outweigh the cost in terms of cheaper prices for consumers, and in placing increased pressure on domestic manufacturers to be more efficient.

The cuts will be effective from Feb 16, 45 days after Jan 1, 1993. The Joint Public/Private Sector Consultative Committee, the Federation of Thai Industries and Board of Trade have endorsed the bid to low tariffs to 30 per cent, Tharin said.

Thailand's proposed exclusion list includes vegetable oil, copper, copper cathodes, aluminium, electrical appliances, cars and motoring accessories. Thailand has also restructured the tariffs on raw materials.

According to the 7th national plan tariffs must be reduced to 5 per cent on raw materials, 10 per cent on semi-processed materials and 20 per cent on finished products.

Tharin said it was difficult to carry out the task as one item could be defined as a raw material for one industry but a finished product for another. However, domestic industries have insisted that tariffs have to be restructured to be consistent with the Afta programme.

Wide-ranging tariff restructure is time-consuming, he said, and certain sectors rather than others might be the first to use the new tariffs.

Meanwhile, exporters could be able to use bank guarantees instead of cash as collateral on value-added tax for imported raw materials fo export production, he added.

Cabinet Orders Relocation of Supreme Command

BK3012024192 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 30 Dec 92 p 1, 3

[Text] The Cabinet yesterday ordered that the Supreme Command abandon existing construction and build its new headquarters in Bangkok's northern suburbs.

Prime Minister Chuan Likphai said there were also plans for other government departments housed in buildings in the Royal Plaza area to be gradually relocated elsewhere.

Deputy Agriculture and Cooperatives Minister Suthep Thuaksuban said Mr Chuan would appoint a committee to assess how the present Supreme Command site could best be redeveloped for use by all Bangkok residents.

The relocation was among four options proposed by the Supreme Command through the Defence Ministry at the Prime Minister's instruction after the project came under heavy attack from the Opposition.

Opposition leaders, during the Budget Bill debate earlier this month, demanded that the project be scrapped because of the proximity of the 10-storey building (two of them underground) to the Royal Plaza where Anantasamakhom Throne Hall and Equestrian Statue of King Rama V are located.

In the Supreme Command's report to the Cabinet, the armed forces headquarters proposed four options for consideration: maintaining the building height at 25.65

metres; reducing it by two storeys to 21.8 metres; relocation to a site provided by the Government, or relocation to a Supreme Command site off Raminthra Road in Bang Khen.

Government deputy spokesman Thamrong Thaimongkhon said the Cabinet decided on the last option after a lengthy debate.

The Supreme Command had contracted Benjamas construction company to build the new headquarters at a cost of 978.3 million baht. Already about 205 million baht has been spent for work which began on January 17 this year. The project is due for completion in 1,200 days or on May 7, 1995.

Mr Chuan said the Cabinet had considered a more appropriate use for the site in the future before agreeing unanimously to select the last proposal made by the Supreme Command headquarters.

The construction contract with Benjamas company will remain valid.

"We are not scrapping the construction contract. We are moving construction work to somewhere else," he said.

The Defence Ministry will be responsible for negotiating the details with the company on how the contract could be adjusted to accommodate the change.

"The company has not violated the contract and we cannot scrap it," the Prime Minister said, adding that officials have yet to discuss with Benjamas if it wished to claim for damages which may be caused by the Cabinet decision.

"We cannot put the blame on anybody because no one has violated the law in this regard," the Premier said.

Mr Chuan said he regretted that 205 million baht in taxpayers' money had already been spent on the project but he felt the long term gains were more worthwhile.

"This will benefit Bangkok because we can no longer find pieces of land of this size in the city."

Mr Suthep said the new Supreme Command headquarters would be relocated on land owned by the armed forces off Raminthra Road where the Joint Security Command is currently housed.

Mr Thamrong said several Cabinet ministers spoke against construction of the building on its present site and all agreed it must be moved.

He said Deputy Communications Minister Thawi Kraikhup said a building on the present design would violate the law by exceeding official limits on the height.

It would also dominate the Anantasamakhom Throne Hall and Equestrian Statue and may worsen the traffic situation in and around the area, Commerce Minister Uthai Phimchaichon was quoted as saying.

Justice Minister Suwit Khunkitti said the other buildings in the Supreme Command compound should also be relocated along with the new building.

Mr Thamrong said the site of the present Supreme Command headquarters was originally bought by King Rama V and later turned into a royal park called Suan Dusit.

A Fine Arts Deparment committee suggested that the area be renovated and restored based on King Rama V's initiative, said Mr Thamrong.

Deputy Premier Sees 16% Rise in Export Earnings

BK2912030592 Bangkok THE NATION in English 29 Dec 92 p B1

[Text] Thailand's export earnings in 1993 are forecast to rise 16.1 per cent on this year to a total of Bt [baht] 981 billion, the Export Development Committee announced yesterday. Deputy Prime Minister Suphachai Phanitchaphak, chairman of the Export Development Committee, said imports should rise 9.9 per cent to Bt1.05 trillion while the trade deficit is forecast to be Bt210 billion in the new year.

Meanwhile, the Committee yesterday assigned the Industry Ministry to oversee all the standards on Thai exports which will be subject to new rules in the European Community's single market. The EC will start to enforce its single market rules from Jan 1.

Suphachai said the government would devise measures to help the private sector achieve the Bt981 billion figure. Exports of manufactured goods should record a continued strong growth, while the traditional farm crops should experience continued decline, due to slower world trade and the drought.

The government has come up with the higher target of Bt981 billion with the objective of narrowing the trade deficit. But Suphachai said the outlook of key markets like Europe and the US is not encouraging. In addition, he said, Board of Investment projections of a 30-40 per cent decline in new investments added to the sharply-revised export figures. Among new areas competing against Thailand for international investors is China. Less foreign investments could lead to a slower growth of export earnings in coming years.

The government will find measures to accelerate the plan to restructure import tariffs on raw materials and semi-finished and finished items used in the textile, jewellery and footwear industries—the country's three top earners.

Supachai said problems associated with value-added tax [VAT] and slow tax returns will be solved, with the objective of cutting the return time from the current four months to one months, as announced earlier. The Finance Ministry has also been asked to consider accepting bank guarantees instead of cash for VAT on imported raw materials. The private sector said this would help save export costs.

Plans to set up an export-import bank, resolve the Anera issue of arbitrary shipping tariff fixing and to make further inroads into the east and central European markets, where growth is forecast to be 33 per cent in 1993, up from this year's 28 per cent. Africa, South America and Indochina should also be further penetrated by Thai exporters.

If export earnings were lower than target, the trade deficit will worsen. Expansion of manufacturing capacity for electronics, among other sectors, will be slower and other countries will take more investments. Lower wages in Indochina will be the key factor tempting new investments.

Deputy Commerce Minister Phaitun Kaeothong said the target might not be achieved because of slower global growth and fewer investments expected in Thailand next year.

Oranut Osathanan, director-general of the Department of Export Promotion, said ready-made garments should record a growth of 20 per cent in exports if the Asean Free Trade Area (Afta) went ahead as planned. Consumer goods like plastics and leather items will be the leading manufactured items.

Demand for Petroleum Products Grows 9.1 Percent

BK3012030392 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 30 Dec 92 p 17

[Text] It has been another year of high growth in energy demand and heavy dependence on imported oil.

Based on actual figures for the first 11 months of 1992 and an estimate for December, the Petroleum Authority of Thailand (PTT) says national demand for petroleum products (including indigenous natural gas) grew 9.1 percent over 1991 to average 575,410 barrels per day (b/d).

The Kingdom continues to be heavily dependent on imported oil, which constituted 68.2 percent of total supply acquired in the year, while the balance of 31.8 percent was met by indigenous petroleum resources.

Imports of crude and finished oil products in 1992 soared 9.2 percent over the previous year to 420,520 b/d. Greater oil imports pushed up national oil bills for the year to nearly 80 billion baht, up 2.3 percent from the 1991 level.

Demand for finished oil products rose 9.2 percent over the previous year to 468,590 b/d. All types of oil products recorded higher demand.

Consumption of indigenous natural gas as fuel increased 8.6 percent to 106,820 b/d.

Supply of all petroleum products in 1992 increased 9.5 percent to average 616,820 b/d. The were from overseas sources (420,520 b/d) and local petroleum fields (196,300 b/d).

Imports of finished oil products and crude in the year grew 9.2 percent and indigenous petroleum production soared 10.2 percent.

Weekly Comments on Chuan-Military 'Cold War'

BK2712105192 Bangkok KHAO PHISET in Thai 18-24 Dec 92 pp 3-5

["Situation Analysis: The Armed Forces and Government Heading Toward Era of 'Cold War'"]

[Text] The "Phitsanulok House" advisers to General Chatchai Chunhawan admitted recently that Gen. Chatchai's method of "approving every proposal," which he used as a policy to deal with the military establishment, was "ineffective."

Although there was early success in the "invitation" to Gen. Chawalit Yongchaiyut to resign and to some of his colleagues to follow suit in order to appoint Gen. Chawalit deputy prime minister, the move did not succeed with another group of officers, the Chulachomklao Military Academy Class 5 graduates who believed that Gen. Chatchai's heart is on the right side of his chest [as published].

Phalang Tham Party leader Major General Chamlong Simuang declared during the election campaign that he would use the policy of "not kowtowing to the military ... but would not destroy the military." Though this policy seems to be most suitable, Chamlong's "image" somehow scared away several former military leaders even before the election. For this reason, the outcome of the 13 September election amounted to rejection of Chamlong before his policy could be tested as right or wrong.

It appears that Prime Minister Chuan Likphai has not applied Chamlong's policy or concept. It could be the right thing for the political climate at the time, because Chuan disagreed with appointing "a defense minister who merely wants to elevate his rank from major general to full general." Chuan resorted to placing his confidence in an individual whom he feels has the acceptance of the soldiers in order to have the ability to control the military establishment. The choices for his selection started with Gen. Phichit Kunlawanit, Gen. Yutthana Yaemphan, and finally Gen. Wichit Sukmak. They are all good military officers, but whether they are compatible with the political situation is a different matter.

Individuals and the Establishment

The new political situation has created new faces in the military administration. Former Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun placed several individuals to make it appear that "professionals" were controlling the military establishment's administrative power, including Air Chief Marshal [ACM] Woranat Aphichari controlling the Supreme Command; ACM Kan Phimanthip, an officer toward whom suspicion by rival groups of friends makes a neutral to head the Air Force; Gen. Wimon Wongwanit, who feels "he is prospering on top of his friends' grief," leading the Army; Admiral Wichet Karunyawanit heading the Navy; and Lieutenant Chettha Thanacharo heading the 1st Army Division as the major key for balancing military and political power. Lt. Gen.

Chettha, as a senator, debated in vain in support of abolishing the Internal Peacekeeping Director Act.

While the political situation following the black May incident produced those interesting faces of professionals in control of the military establishment, the mood of the establishment seems to run in the opposite direction.

In addition to the defeat suffered by "Class 5," military circles seem to suffer from the feeling that military prestige has declined. This is reflected by the remarks of an old officer, Field Marshal Praphat Charusathian, who said: "The prestige of the Armed Forces has never been so low." Even Gen. Wimon, who benefited from the black May incident, talked about being saddened by having to achieve power with the downfall of his friends and about "a mission to restore the honor of the establishment."

Opposition by Inaction

The pre-election activities against "angel" politicians at the Air Force and Army conference halls may have been organized by or connected to the military group which lost power. However, considering the past prestige of the military establishment, the political parties that prosper in the new political situation are naturally likely to be viewed disdainfully by the military.

In the eyes of mid-level military leaders, Gen. Wichit, ACM Woranat, and even Lt. Gen. Surayut Chulanon of the Special Warfare Unit may be "good soldiers", but their goodness is not of the "star" level of the military establishment capable of restoring the establishment's prestige. These officers have not displayed behavior or suggested ideas that would create "new prestige" that would replace "old prestige." For this reason, they are looked upon increasingly as good soldiers but lacking in "charisma."

On the other hand, officers who previously achieved little performance and received little recognition from the establishment would gain resounding recognition if they expressed their inner feelings about the institution. This is the case of ACM Suwit Chantharapradit, the defense permanent secretary, when he stood up in public to ask about the government's stability.

The military's inaction that approaches a degree of opposition or slowdown involves stopping to take initiatives in solving the problems in which the military usually played a major role, such as in solving disputes along the Burmese and Cambodian borders.

The eagerness to participate in solving these problems seems to have diminished compared to previously. The claim that may be acceptable is: "We do not want to risk action which might upstage the government. The government wants us to serve as its tool so we must wait for its instruction. We would be in trouble if any initiative on our part contradicted the government's policy."

For this reason, the Thai-Burmese border situation arising from the dispute over Hill 491 seemed to be unusually intense but the efforts to solve it were abnormally slow. On the Cambodian border, soldiers were slow to help solve the problem of removing logs through checkpoints, causing log businessmen to consider a protest with the government.

The attempt to abolish the Internal Peacekeeping Director Act suffered similar problems. Gen. Wichit and 1st Army Region Commander Lt. Gen. Chettha failed to persuade the Senate, whose majority is comprised of military officers, to accept the rationale for abolition. The establishment of a commission to study the act in the first reading has become a political controversy and topic of much discussion everywhere.

The Military Establishment and the Group That Formerly Held Power

There is a flaw in the view of the military establishment's close ties with the group that formerly held power, or Class 5. Intelligence reports agree that political movement by these former power holders has been virtually nonexistent. They say Gen. Itsaraphong Nunphakdi is spending his time quietly at the Office of the Defense Permanent Secretary waiting for his upcoming retirement. Gen. Suchinda Khraprayun is happy playing golf and socializing with his friends. Reports on ACM Kaset Rotchananin merely note that he was contemplating a political career.

Although these people are not engaging in activities against the government, how does one explain the increasingly inactive military establishment? The inactivity is strong enough to cause the Army commander to feel uneasy about the current situation.

It could be concluded that the "you deserve it" feelings were not fomented by the group formerly holding power but are an automatic behavior on the part of the military establishment, which has long been accustomed to political prestige, and the present political situation has brought the feelings of being deprived.

It is worth noting that if these feelings are not relieved a coup is possible. However, it is agreed among the military specialists that it will be difficult for a coup to succeed, especially in the current internal and international political climate. Another coup could mean a further decline in the military institution. In addition, it is hard to see where the nucleus of a coup could be. For this reason, the discontent in the minds of military leaders is vented in worrisome ways which could grow into dissatisfaction. This feelings of "you deserve it," if affecting only a few individuals would be relatively harmless, but if affecting the military establishment would have the potential of obstructing the government's national administration, great enough to cause confusion in political parties and eventually lead to restoration of the prestige of the military establishment.

Chuan Likphai and Administration of the Armed Forces

Prime Minister Chuan Likphai's general style of administration is to follow regulations, rules, and principles. He attaches rather great importance to the process of various steps of implementation and even delays certain important projects for parliamentary passage of the national budget. In his method of administration, assignments and responsibilities are given to respective ministers, taking into consideration their prestige and relying on rules and principles to govern behavior of the ministers. This method has safeguarded the prime minister's image throughout his political career, triggering comments that giving important ministries to coalition parties is a way to avoid a lot of responsibility.

In administration of the Armed Forces, Gen. Wichit has become the person to set policies and oversee the Defense Ministry on behalf of the prime minister.

In the past three months, the prime minister has virtually not touched any of the activities of the Defense Ministry, not even to mix with military leaders. This method was practiced by Gen. Prem Tinsulanon and Gen. Chatchai. Aside from Gen. Wichit and certain retired military officers giving him advice, Prime Minister Chuan has no liaison with the military establishment. There is no need to talk about colonels who are close to the prime minister because they have no potential for suggesting policy-level operations to him.

This manner of administration is, therefore, unlikely to reduce the negative reaction of military officers affected by the past political development. Former Prime Minister M.L. Seni Pramot used the same practice as Chuan in administering the Defense Ministry. He relied on a single individual whom he and the parties trusted, although the person maybe lacked charisma in military circles and did not suit the mood of the military establishment.

Gen. Wichit Sukmak certainly has the acceptance of every Armed Forces leader and soldiers should recognize his military record. However, with Gen. Wichit alone in the middle between the military and political power, there is greater chance of him failing because of obstacles than of him succeeding in overcoming the obstacles.

The complaints by Gen. Wimon Wongwanit are a good reflection of his feelings. In the midst of political confusion, the Army commander has gradually become increasingly aware of the "soldier's soul." He will probably feel a lot better at the upcoming party for Class 5 in Phetburi Province.

The idea of reducing the size of the senate or attempts to issue regulations to curb the power of the former holders of power are merely formalities which will not produce real results. Just the opposite; they would trigger reaction. The attempt to form a commission to discourage coups has never achieved its purpose. Neither would changes of regulations or transfers if activities within the military circles are not thoroughly understood.

Considering this method of administration and with both being faced with assorted problems, the Armed Forces and the government will unavoidably confront each other in a cold war, a war that no one has yet won and that is certain to create obstacles and problems for both sides.

It seems essential for Chuan Likphai to readjust policy toward the armed forces. The government will have to do something other than carrying out its policy of independent existence or drawing a line for containment, because once soldiers overstep the line the government could be defeated. Gen. Chatchai adopted the independent existence policy for some time and it was too late by the time he began to cultivate his own power.

If Prime Minister Chuan Likphai cannot survive in the political climate of "complete democracy," he will probably have to vigorously mix it up and negotiate to end the cold war.

Government Stages 'Water Grab' To Ease Drought

BK2712031492 Bangkok THE NATION in English 27 Dec 92 p A10

[Editorial: "The city is a thief"]

[Text] If a robber is out to steal some money, he usually needs a gun to do it. But when the powerful want to take resources from the powerless, they go ahead and announce it in the newspaper. That's what happened this last week when the Metropolitan Waterworks Authority announced that the Royal Irrigation Department would reserve 1,000 million cubic metres from the Phumiphon and Sirikit Dam reservoirs for Bangkok's tap water supplies during the coming dry season. The caveat is that in order to slake the city's thirst, thousands of farmers will have to forego their second crop, and thus a sizeable chunk of of income. Apparently, the farmers have no say in the matter.

Anyone who's seen the movie Chinatown will know what this is: a water grab. It's not the only one, either. The government is planning to divert water from from the Mae Klong to benefit Bangkok, and also from the Mekong for irrigating the North and Northeast. Our neighbors in Indochina are not at all pleased.

Reserving, diverting: theft by any other name is just as ugly. Water is a limited resource. Stealing it can only lead to conflicts, both internally and internationally. This is the natural culmination of the government's age-old obsession with seeking new water supplies rather than using what we have more efficiently. The large engineering projects involved with increasing supply provide officials with plenty of opportunities for kickbacks and other forms of corruption.

For a country as well endowed with fresh water as Thailand to be undergoing such a crisis is a scandal of epic proportions. Officially termed a "drought," this condition has in fact come about due to years of mismanagement of our natural resources. The Royal Irrigation Department is mostly to blame, but also at fault is the Royal Forestry Department and other agencies which have allowed watersheds to be destroyed, and political leaders who refuse to raise water tariffs to reflect the true cost of water supply.

You would think we'd have learned our lesson by now. And yet the new administration seems set to continue with the same old policies: building more dams, destroying more watersheds and continuing to subsidize water supply.

Typically, the problem is presented as a case of too much water being allowed to run off into the sea. The Chuan adminsitration has used this argument as justification for proposing to build new dams at Saiburi, Kaeng Sua Ten, Mae Wong and Haeo Narok—the latter two being in national parks. But dams themselves—besides disrupting riverine ecosystems, inundating forests and displacing thousands of villagers—are considered poor solutions since the large surface areas of reservoirs lead to increased evaporation. Instead, we should be paying more attention to the demand side of water management, as Egat [Electricity generating authority of Thailand] has now been forced to with electricity.

Water is provided free to many farmers, and is subsidized for urban and industrial consumers. For instance, above the limit of 2,000 cubic metres per month, the more water a factory uses the less it has to pay. The result is predictable: massive inefficiency. A report by the Thailand Development Research Institute (TDRI) states that efficiency in the agricultural sector (which consumes 90 percent of our water) lies below 30 percent, compared to at least 50 percent in Malaysia, China and Taiwan.

The easiest way to promote efficiency is to make people pay for the true cost of the water they receive. Not only is water scarce, but by the time it's used it has been stored in reservoirs, chemically cleansed and piped through intricate distribution networks. We have been getting off cheap for too long. And we have not been doing farmers any favours by giving them water for free, because the result is that we just end up taking it away from them. If we really want to help them (and ourselves), then we should make them pay for irrigation and in return give them water rights, an ensured supply of water over a long period of time.

By making such rights tradable, we can also give them a choice: they can either stick to the profession of their ancestors without having to worry about their water supply being cut off; or they can sell or lease their rights to those who can pay more for it (typically, towns and industries) and so benefit directly from industrial development.

The decision to undertake pricing reform and grant farmers water rights is a political one. It can only be made at the highest levels. But the Chuan administration seems loathe to tackle it. Quite the contrary, Interior Minister Chawalit Yongchaiyut said in November that he was considering reducing some tariffs for tap water supply.

The government likes to talk about evening out development between urban and rural areas, but its water policy shows this talk is nothing but blather. If it wants to get serious, control over natural resources—not just water but also land, for that matter—must be taken away from the bureaucrats and given to the people.

Increasing Thai-Lao Border Trade Reported

BK2612051092 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in English 0000 GMT 26 Dec 92

[Text] Thai-Lao border trade in the third quarter of this year is booming. Statistics show that Thailand exported to Laos products worth over 578 million baht, which is 116 million baht higher than the same period last year. It is expected that in the upcoming year 1993, border trade between Thailand and Laos will increase by as much as 20 percent. Most products exported from Thailand are consumer goods and products imported from Laos are mostly processed wood.

Manager of the Thai Farmers Bank in Nongkhai Province, Chanin Chainarongsakun, said that cash flow through the bank has been over 3 million baht a month. Thai visitors to Laos numbered at about 700 a day. They are mostly businessmen and tourists. About 150 Laotians visit Nongkhai each day, mostly to sell and to buy goods.

Vietnam

Nguyen Views Cambodian 'Massacre' of Vietnamese

BK3012104892 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 30 Dec 92

[Text] Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam sent a letter to the UN secretary general, two cochairmen of the Paris Agreement on Cambodia, signatories to the agreement, chairman of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia, and the UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] head in Cambodia, expressing deep concern over the harrassment and massacre of Vietnamese nationals living in Cambodia by the Democratic Cambodian faction.

The letter recallled the murder of 14 people, of whom 12 are Vietnamese nationals in Kompong Schhnang Province, and said that Mr. Eric Berman, deputy spokesman of UNTAC affirmed that the murderers were the Khmer Rouge.

The letter describes this act as a violation of the UN Charter and says that Vietnam strongly condemns this act and calls for resolute measures to stay the hands of the Khmer Rouge.

Commentary Views Kidnaping of UNTAC Personnel

BK3012104992 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 18 Dec 92

[Text] The spokesman for the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC], Mr. Eric Falt, disclosed that the Khmer Rouge again arrested another 46 UNTAC officials in Kompong Thom province. Here is our comment on the event.

Addressing a press conference in Phnom Penh on Thursday, UNTAC spokesman Mr. Eric Falt said: On December 15, two military observers of UNTAC, one Chinese and one French, were arrested in Kompong Thom while working with an election unit in the area. The same day, other two UNTAC officials were held captive in O Sala Commune in the same province. On December 16, two other UNTAC officials, one American and one Senegalese, were arrested together with [words indistinct] troops [word indistinct] in Sala Commune. Twenty-one UNTAC members were arrested on December 15 and 16. Due to UNTAC [word indistinct], the Khmer Rouge had to release these 21 persons, but immediately after that, they arrested another 46 UNTAC members. Until now, the Khmer Rouge has deliberately taken actions against this international body. So far, the Khmer Rouge has (?attacked) over 20 UNTAC helicopters, arrested 200 UNTAC members involving in the preservation of peace in Cambodia according to the Paris Agreement.

The Khmer Rouge has boycotted the peace process, and [words indistinct] proved that they are the main obstacle to the implementation of the Paris peace agreement in Cambodia. Despite this fact, the United Nations and other factions in the country are trying to do their best to bring the Khmer Rouge back to the peace process of which they are among the signatories. The UN, however, will organize the election in Cambodia according to its schedule, even without Khmer Rouge's participation.

VNA Reports U.S. Aid to Flood Victims

BK2912140592 Hanoi VNA in English 1346 GMT 29 Nov 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec. 29—The US Government has decided to provide 220,000 US dollars in relief aid to flood victims in the central Provinces of Quang Binh and Ha Tinh, the spokesman of the US State Department announced on December 24.

This is the second time the US Government helps these provinces. 25,000 dollars were delivered to these flood-stricken provinces in November last.

Assembly Adopts Resolution on Land Act

BK3012090992 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 28 Dec 92

["Text" of resolution adopted by the Ninth National Assembly at its 9-23 December 1992 second session on "continued perfection of the draft bill amending and supplementing a number of articles of the Law on Land"]

[Text] Pursuant to Article 84 of the SRV Constitution, and after hearing the government report on the draft bill amending and supplement a number of articles of the Law on Land, and taking into account the opinions of the National Assembly Judicial Committee and of National Assembly deputies during their debate over this draft bill, the National Assembly hereby resolves:

1. Amending and supplementing the Law on Land is a pressing requirement aimed at constitutionalizing various stipulations of the 1992 Constitution. This is to help revamp the management of and to use thriftily and effectively various types of land and to gradually resolve land disputes in order to stabilize the social situation, to develop the economy, and to move the country toward socialism.

The National Assembly assigns the government, together with the Judicial Committee of the National Assembly and its Economic and Budget Committee and the Nationalities Council, to base itself on the suggestions made by National Assembly deputies at this session in promptly rectifying the draft bill in order to disseminate it for public views prior to presenting it to the National Assembly for passage at its third session.

2. Land is an issue directly connected with the interests of the state and of each citizen. In order to ensure that the amendment of the Law on Land is based on realities and reflects the people's aspirations, the National Assembly asks the government to review the enforcement of the law on land, especially the delivery of land [to peasant households for management], land use, and land disputes.

All sectors, echelons, and localities should, within their functions and duties, urgently examine and promptly deal with those cases of violations of state-prescribed regulations on land management and land use so as to gradually reestablish law and order in this domain.

3. The National Assembly assigns the chairman of the National Assembly Standing Committee with directing responsible organs to rectify the draft bill and disseminate it for public views.

Major 1992 Events in External Relations Viewed

BK3012093992 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 28 Dec 92

[Review of "10 biggest events in Vietnam's external relations in 1992"]

[Text] To carry out an open-door policy, making friends with all countries, Vietnam continues to extend relations with other countries in the world.

In August 1992, General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Do Muoi paid an official friendship visit to Laos. The visit marked a new step toward the development and extension of traditional relations between the two countries.

Then in December, he paid a visit to India. On this occasion, Vietnam and India affirmed to continue strengthening their friendship and cooperation.

1992 marked a new stage in relations between Vietnam and ASEAN countries with the visit to all ASEAN member countries by Vietnamese Premier Vo Van Kiet.

In late 1992, the prime ministers of Thailand and Malaysia paid their official visits to Vietnam. And November 1992 witnessed the visit of the Thai crown prince.

Vietnam's accession to the Bali Treaty and its becoming an observer to ASEAN have put an end to the former stage of opposition and shifted to a new stage of cooperation for peace, stability, and prosperity of the region.

Chinese Premier Li Peng paid an official visit to Vietnam in December. This was the first time after 21 years since the visit to Vietnam by Premier Chou En-lai in March 1971. The visit marked a new step in the development of Sino-Vietnamese relations.

In November 1992, the Japanese government decided to review its official development aid to Vietnam. This event is a signal of the start of a breakthrough facilitating a stronger development of the relations between Vietnam and Japan.

Also in November, U.S. President George Bush and Vietnamese President Le Duc Anh exchanged letters. With this event, Vietnam and the United States are having a chance to close the past and open up a new era in Vietnam-U.S. relations.

The tour of First Vice Premier Pham Van Khai of Switzerland, France, and Italy in January this year, Belgium, France, and EC in October this year, and that of Vice Premier Tran Duc Luong of Denmark, Norway in July and Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam of France in May, Belgium, Britain, Germany, and Holland in June 1992 continued to promote bilateral and multilateral relations with Western and Eastern European countries and strengthening cooperation in economics, trade, and investment with those countries and the European Community.

In 1992, Vietnam continued to establish its relations with the Commonwealth of the Independent States and Eastern Europe. This was marked by the visit and signing of many agreements on economic, cultural, scientific, and technological cooperation by Vice Premier Tran Duc Luong with Russia, Ukraine, Belarus in July 1992, Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam's visit to Poland, Hungary in May 1992 and the visit to Vietnam in March and July respectively by Belarusian and Russian vice chairmen of the Council of Ministers.

Ties Established With Czech, Slovak Republics

BK2912141392 Hanoi VNA in English 1348 GMT 29 Dec 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec. 29 - The Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam has decided to recognize the Republics of Czech and Slovakia and to establish diplomatic relations with those countries at ambassadorial level, announces the Ministry for Foreign Affairs today.

In a statement on this occasion, the Vietnamese Government expressed its belief that the friendly and cooperative relations between Vietnam and Czech and Slovakia will constantly strengthen and develop.

Defense Minister Sends Letter to Regiment 72

BK2912143592 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2330 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Letter from Minister of National Defense Doan Khue to cadres and soldiers of Regiment 72 of Engineering Armed Services on its 20th founding anniversary, 20 December—read by announcer]

[Text] Dear Comrades, on the 20th founding anniversary of Regiment 72 of the Engineering Armed Services, on behalf of the Central Military Party Committee and Ministry of National Defense, I would like to send to all cadres, soldiers, national defense workers, injured and sick soldiers, retired and transferred personnel of the regiment, and your families my warmest regards and best wishes.

Under the leadership of the Communist Party of Vietnam and with the support of the people, for more than 20 years of construction and growing up, generations of cadres and soldiers of Regiment 72 of the Engineering Armed Services have always developed the revolutionary characteristics and glorious tradition of the Vietnam People's Army and the victorious tradition of the heroic Engineering Armed Services. They have been totally loyal to the party, united among themselves, stubborn in their fighting, and overcoming all challenges, hardships, and difficulties. They have positively, creatively, and actively accomplished all duties entrusted to contribute to undertaking national liberation and construction and protection of the Vietnamese socialist fatherland. I wholeheartedly hail your achievements of the last 20 years.

Dear comrades, the national renovation undertaking of our party and people has been scoring important initial achievements, but it still encounters many difficulties and challenges. In order to contribute to the successful implementation of the Seventh National Party Congress resolution, resolutions of the party Central Committee, and the resolution of the Central Military Party Committee on the duties for national defense and security, you should thoroughly understand and strictly apply all party guidance and policy, and Armed Forces and engineering armed service's duties. You should build a firm political knowledge and be steadfast in the socialist target and path. You should develop the spirit of self-reliance and positive creativeness to improve military training and professional knowledge and to be vigilant and ready for combat to win in all situations. You should unite, have self-control, pay regular attention to the soldiers' life, be closely attached to the public, build a completely strong regiment, and satisfactorily accomplish all duties to always deserve the love and trust of the party, state, and people.

I wish you good health and scoring more excellent achievements in the new revolutionary stage. I send you my friendly and determined-to-win salutations.

Agreement on Direct Flights Signed With ROK

BK3012135892 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 25 Dec 92

[Text] Republic of Korea news agency YONHAP announced that Vietnam Airlines and Korea Airlines have just reached an agreement to open direct flights between Ho Chi Minh City and Seoul. Vietnam Airlines will start irregular flights for this route from January 1993 and will later change to weekly flights.

Interior Minister Promoted to Colonel General

BK3012132492 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 21 Dec 92

[Text] Dear friends, The Office of The President of State solemnly announces:

Persuant to the recommendation of the prime minister,

Persuant to Article 103 of the 1992 Constitution and Article 19 of the Regulations on the Vietnam People's Security Force and Vietnam People's Police Force,

On 19 December, SRV President Le Duc Anh signed a decision to promote Mr Bui Thien Ngo, minister of interior, from lieutenant general to colonel general.

Nguyen Thi Binh Attends Publishing Ceremony

BK2712135092 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 19 Dec 92

[Text] The Education Publishing House held a ceremony on 19 December in Hanoi to receive the Order of Independence, Second Class, awarded by the state to the publishing house to mark its 35 years of development and contributions. Comrade Nguyen Thi Binh, vice president of the state, attended the ceremony.

The publishing house has to date published 5,000 textbooks with 900 million copies for distribution to kindergarten and general schools, supplementary education and on-the-job training schools, technical schools and colleges, and schools in ethnic minority and highland areas. The quality of the textbooks has been constantly improved, thereby effectively catching up with scientific- technological advances [words indistinct].

Land Administration Seminar on Land Policy

BK2412071992 Hanoi VNA in English 0607 GMT 24 Dec 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec. 24—A seminar on the land policy in Vietnam in the multi-sector commodity economy was held in Hanoi on Dec. 21 and 22 by the General Department of Land Administration.

The seminar was attended by researchers from 20 concerned institutes and offices and representatives of the United Nations Development Programme, the Swedish International Development Authority and the World Bank.

The seminar focused on questions relating to the change of land administration and use from the period of the command and bureacratic economy to the mechanism of state-regulated multi-sector economy.

Many speakers also touched upon issues concerning the evaluation of land price in the market mechanism, the assignment of the right to land use, accumulation and allotment, the modalities and time-limit for land allotment to foreigners, land ownership and land use right of farmers, land administration and use in urban areas and land disputes.

Leaders Address Conferences on Foreign Relations

BK2912131592 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Text] Recently, the seventh series of conferences on foreign relations work of localities was held in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City with the participation of people's committees of provinces and cities under the central authority. Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam opened the conferences and Deputy Prime Minister Phan Van Khai gave addresses.

The conferences received briefings from the Government Office, Foreign Ministry, State Committee on Cooperation and Investment, Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Interior, and Overseas Vietnamese Central Committee on the situation, duties, and new government's policies and guidelines in the foreign relations domain. The conferences welcomed achievements in this area under the lines of the Seventh National Party Congress. The participants also profoundly discussed their local foreign relations work in the new situation. They emphasized the necessity to exploit local potential while at the same time broadening foreign relations, especially economic relations of the provinces and cities. They also mentioned that, together with broadening relations with other countries and international organizations, we should preserve and develop our national tradition, political security, and social safety and order, and safeguard our national sovereignty, territory, and national benefits.

The conferences referred to urgent needs of multidimensional information from central organs, localities, and other countries on the situation, duties, potential, and demands to broaden international cooperation. They also discussed practical measures to train and retrain as well as deploy personnel in the foreign relations work of localities. They emphasized the need for closer guidance of party committees and local government in this important and complicated work.

Notice Issued on Business Reregistration

BK2912094292 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 16 Dec 92

[Text] On 16 December, the Government Office issued a notice on the implementation of Decision 196 of the chairman of the Council of Ministers. The notice requires that all economic units of government organs, mass organizations, research institutions, schools, social organizations, and so forth formed under Decision 268 of 30 July 1990, Decision 92 of 22 April 1989, and previous regulations must reregister their activities according to new business category regulated by current laws.

The notice says that the reregistration has lasted for seven months and the prime minister decided not to give it any more extension. Therefore, all economic units subject to the Decision 196 must strictly observe the reregistration by 31 December 1992. This is necessary work to ensure all economic units being equal under the law. All government organs of market management, finance, bank, import-export, and so forth are responsible to help and check on the implementation of the decision and dealt with violations of the reregistration according to the laws.

Ho Chi Minh City's GDP Growth Up 2.5 Percent

BK2912060992 Hanoi VNA in English 0544 GMT 29 Dec 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec. 29—GDP [gross domestic product] growth rate in Ho Chi Minh City this year was 2.5 percent higher than in 1991 despite many difficulties encountered in all branches of production.

Industrial output value, reckoned in terms of prices available in 1989, increased 15.7 percent. With the exception of fuel and metal production, output was higher in all the 17 other branches. The highest marks were scored in the production of canned milk (79 percent), dry batteries (76 percent), yarn (59 percent), cement (41 percent) and detergent (33 percent).

Agricultural output value rose 7 percent, with a marked increase in both area and yield for rice, groundnut and sugarcane. Export turnover went up 77 million US dollars to total 421 million, with 180 million from rice and other farm products, 111 million from sea products, 100 million from garments and other light industry products, and 30 million from forest products.

Another 150 million came from tourism, services and overseas remittance.